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LD0702140589 [Editorial Report]

Israel

The U.S. conditions for a dialogue with the PLO have been "clearly and unequivocally violated" by the PLO's unsuccessful attempt to mount a terrorist attack inside Israel over the weekend, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens declared in remarks reported by THE JERUSALEM POST.

Arens said Israel will draw the attention of U.S. officials to the incident and the POST noted that the Foreign Ministry has begun a coordinated campaign to persuade the United States of the need to put an end to the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

A PLO spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo emphasized that the Palestinian force was on a "military" mission aimed at attacking Israeli soldiers in retaliation for "Israeli terrorism."

The PFLP, which organized the operation jointly with another Palestinian faction, stated that such operations are not terrorism but part of the "popular armed struggle" which is one of the PLO's "main weapons," AFP noted.

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin urged the United States to address itself to the issue of PLO threats against Palestinians proposing an end to the violence. This type of "terror" is more important than attempts to infiltrate from Lebanon, he maintained.

Rabin also estimated that 360 Palestinians have been killed during the uprising, over 7,000 wounded, and 27,000 detained, the radio reported. Three more Arabs were wounded in clashes with soldiers 6 February, the radio disclosed.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh denied reports that the PLO-U.S. dialogue is scheduled to resume on 13 February, telling Amman's SAWT AL-SHA'B that the PLO has not been officially notified that another meeting with U.S. officials has been set. He also confirmed that a Palestinian-Syrian meeting "at the highest levels" will be held "within the next few weeks."

A PLO source in Amman cited by MENA claimed that the PLO has "definite information" about Israeli plans to assassinate Palestinian leaders and attack Palestinian targets in Lebanon.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Algerian-Moroccan Talks—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in Morocco on a "friendship and working visit" at the invitation of King Hassan II, APS reported.

Kuwaiti-Iraqi Talks—Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah held talks with President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi officials in Baghdad, KUNA reported. He told journalists that his discussions with Iraqi leaders are aimed at uniting the polices of both countries on Arab issues.

Egyptian-Syrian Relations—Although Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Egyptian and Syrian officials would meet in Jordan 7 February, MENA cited remarks by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in which he stated that there are "no contacts with the brothers in Syria."

Afghanistan

Shevardnadze Visit to Pakistan—At his 6 February news conference in Islamabad, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze underscored the "high degree of agreement" between the USSR and Pakistan on "key issues" of the Afghanistan problem, TASS reported. On the future government in the country, Shevardnadze said the issue can only be settled if the various forms of government "embody within them the interests of all the parties."

He contended that "the PDPA is the most influential force in today's Afghanistan and it is unjust to ignore this."

Referring to President Gorbachev's proposal for an international conference on the Afghan problem, Shevardnadze suggested as an interim measure that representatives of all the Afghan groups should meet in the presence of UN representatives. He said the Islamabad talks have strengthened his conviction that dialogue between all the parties concerned is possible.

However, he warned that if tension increases and if "interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs continues" then the Soviet Union must remember its obligations toward Afghanistan and the treaty between the two countries.

Turning to the situation in Kabul, Shevardnadze criticized the closure of some embassies but said this has not caused panic in the city. The situation is "relatively normal" but not without difficulties. The population is being supplied with food, the airlift is continuing, and the Hayraton-Kabul road is open, Shevardnadze noted.

Answering journalists questions, Shevardnadze denied that political prisoners have been transferred from Afghanistan to the Soviet Union, and stressed that "such a thing is ruled out for the future, also." On his failure to meet with mujahidin representatives while in Pakistan,

Shevardnadze declared that neither side asked for such a meeting but dialogue with the mujahidin is conducted "on an almost permanent basis."

Food Supplies—A UN airlift of emergency food and medical supplies for Kabul began 7 February, AFP reported. Prince Sadruddin Khan, the UN's coordinator for assistance to Afghanistan, said there are also plans to send supplies to Jalalabad and Herat by road from Pakistan.

Military Training—More than 12,000 PDPA and youth organization members have taken "crash courses in military training in Kabul," according to a PDPA official cited by TASS. Kabul radio noted that party members are forming combat units and learning to use weapons to ensure peace and security throughout the Republic.

Iran

Foreign Relations—At a news conference in Tehran reported by IRNA, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati declared Iran will not restore friendly relations with the United States as long as the United States "does not show its goodwill." He added that if Iran's frozen assets are released "we will show our good intentions by helping to secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon."

He welcomed the cooperation pact between the Iran-based mujahidin group and the Pakistan-based group and pledged Iran's support for any accord between the groups on the future government of Afghanistan. He also declared that Iran would "welcome" a visit by Foreign Minister Shevardnadze.

Following President 'Ali Khamene'i's 5 February remarks that the United States should demonstrate its goodwill toward Iran, the TEHRAN TIMES wrote in its 6 February issue that it saw "nothing wrong" in the two countries getting together to "iron out the core of existing problems." Such a move, the paper contended, "would not go against the cherished principles of the Islamic Revolution."

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas described his 2-day visit to Iran as "quite positive," IRNA reported. He told journalists that his visit marks the end of the "temporary rift" in mutual relations and opens new prospects for full normalization of ties."

However, Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi "came down harshly" against the renewal of relations with France, according to IRNA. He insisted that instead of "clasping the hands of such powers we should join hands with our people to get rid of foreigners and strangers," the agency added.

President Khamene'i received Lebanese cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in Tehran 6 February, IRNA reported. Fadlallah praised the recent agreement between Amal and Hizballah in Lebanon.

Prisoners Released—A total of 1,062 prisoners were released in Lorestan and Khorasan Provinces to mark the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, IRNA reported. Another 947 were pardoned in Hamadan and other cities, the report added.

Sudan

The SPLA's clandestine radio warned citizens of Malakal to evacuate the town because the SPLA plans to bombard it using heavy artillery captured in Nasir.

SUNA announced that a DUP delegation would leave for Ethiopia 7 February to resume talks with the SPLM, the political wing of the SPLA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian, Syrian Officials To Meet in Amman 7 Feb

NC0602154989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned from diplomatic sources that Jordan, which is seeking a reconciliation between Syria and Egypt, has succeeded in preparing a meeting between the two countries to take place in Jordan tomorrow. According to information available to our radio, Egypt will be represented at the meeting by Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser for political affairs, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will represent Syria.

According to this information, King Husayn is seeking a Syrian-Egyptian rapprochement before invitations are sent to any Arab summit conference. The Syrian and Egyptian officials will initially discuss the possibility of resuming civil flights between Syria and Egypt and normalizing information relations.

Positive signs have emerged recently between the two countries, with Syrian newspapers publishing President Mubarak's statements and remarks by the Syrian foreign minister that Egyptian leaders have provided positive indications that have received full understanding from Syrian leaders.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Spokesman Reacts to Moshe Arens Statement

JN0602182989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Commenting on Moshe Arens' statement, the PLO spokesman said the operation carried out in southern Lebanon was a military operation and a reply to Israeli terrorism. It was aimed at attacking Israeli soldiers, he added.

Official on Israeli Assassination, Invasion Plans

NC0602162089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1552 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 6 Feb (MENA)—An official Palestinian source has stated that the PLO possesses definite information that Israel has plans to assassinate prominent Palestinian leaders and to invade Lebanon to deal a blow to the Palestinian presence there.

In an exclusive statement with MENA's Amman correspondent, the Palestinian official said that these Israeli plans are designed to enable the Israeli Government to extricate itself from its predicament over the escalating popular uprising in the occupied territories, from the international isolation confronting it, and from the failure of its scheme to find Palestinian leaders outside the PLO.

The Palestinian official called for sending UN or European forces to the occupied territories within the framework of preparing for convening an international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East and also to supervise the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from these territories.

The Palestinian source stressed that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is not an end in itself but must be a prelude to positive moves designed to solve the Palestinian issue and the Middle East question.

He said that the U.S. Administration is now urged to prove its seriousness in following the path of peace by recognizing the independent Palestinian state and by giving impetus to the efforts to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Concerning Palestinian-Syrian relations, the Palestinian official said that he expects a high-level Palestinian-Syrian meeting in the next few weeks to discuss these relations.

PLO Official on Relations With Syria, U.S.

JN0602130089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Feb 89 p 15

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has described PLO-Jordanian relations as good and based on the common understanding that was enshrined at the Arab summit in Algiers and the many meetings held between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and His Majesty King Husayn, particularly following Jordan's historic decision to disengage legal and administrative links with the West Bank, the recognition of the state of Palestine, and the inauguration of a Palestinian Embassy in Amman.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abd Rabbuh said that the PLO and Jordan are working to achieve a joint Arab action plan to pave the way for the convocation of an international peace conference. 'Abd Rabbuh affirmed that this topic was discussed at the recent meeting of the Arab committee that is tasked with supporting the uprising in Tunis on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that the coming months will witness a joint Jordanian-Palestinian-Arab political move in the international arena to push ahead the issue of an international conference. He emphasized the importance of Jordan's role in this respect.

On the results of his Damascus visit and his assessment of the future Syrian-Palestinian relations, 'Abd Rabbuh said he hopes there will be positive developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations over the next few weeks. He stressed that these developments will take the form of a

Palestinian-Syrian meeting at the highest levels during which relations between the PLO and Syria will be discussed. He said that such a meeting will be held within the next few weeks.

'Abd Rabbuh denied press reports that set 13 February as the date for the resumption of Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He said: We in the PLO have not been officially notified that another Palestinian-U.S. meeting has been set. He added: In any case, dialogue with the United States for the PLO is not an end in itself. What is important is that the United States should explicitly state its stand on the convocation of an effective international conference and on the Israeli policy of terrorism that is escalating in occupied Palestine against the children, women, and the elders of our Palestinian Arab people.

With regard to the new Bush administration and whether it will adopt positive steps toward the Palestinian cause, 'Abd Rabbuh said: So far, there are no clear signs in this respect. The current U.S. Administration should prove that it is seriously proceeding on the road to a just peace by recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost being the right to an independent state, and the convocation of an international conference as the only course toward a just and comprehensive peace with the participation of all parties, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. He said: This is the serious and real yardstick for measuring how much the U.S. stand has progressed toward the Palestinian cause.

Answering a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on the provisional Palestinian government and on the discussion to expedite or delay its formation, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, chief of the PLO Information Department, said that a dialogue is currently being held on the formation of the provisional government. The dialogue is being held quietly and slowly to discuss the advantages of forming a provisional Palestinian government.

'Abd Rabbuh added: In another development, the PLO Executive Committee is assuming the tasks of the government as decided by the PNC in Algiers. The PLO Executive Committee is assuming all political and practical responsibilities to this effect. If the formation of the government is delayed, this does not mean that there are gaps or differences in this respect.

Answering another question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on the formation of this government and whether it will be formed from independent personalities or from the PLO Executive Committee members, 'Abd Rabbuh said: The Palestinian government will be similar to the other PLO-affiliated institutions and departments. The formation will take into consideration the comprehensive representation of all the national forces affiliated with the PLO. It will also represent the various national Palestinian key figures and personalities in the different Palestinian Arab people communities inside and outside the occupied territory.

On the situation in Lebanon and the PLO's stand on this situation, the PLO Executive Committee member said that the PLO has informed all the concerned Arab parties in Lebanon, including the seven-member Arab committee that it is ready to provide every assistance and do anything possible to resolve the Lebanese crisis, end the civil war there, and enable the state to impose its sovereignty over all national Lebanese soil. The Palestinians in Lebanon, as well as the PLO on the political and official levels, will do their utmost to achieve this objective. This is because resolving the Lebanese problem as soon as possible is considered a support factor for the struggle of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territory as well as for the mobilization of all potentials to achieve a fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

On the Israeli attempts to create an alternative leadership to the PLO inside the occupied territory, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that Israel, before anybody else, knows full well that the plan to create an alternative leadership has failed. The national Palestinian rallying around the PLO is now stronger than ever before. Israel also knows that this situation has reflected positively on the international level in the interest of the Palestinians and their leadership. Even the United States itself was convinced that the PLO alone, and no other party, is the sole representative and party that can speak in the name of the Palestinian Arab people in their just cause.

'Abd Rabbuh affirmed that Israeli confusion, represented by the announcement of plans, one negating the other, is an expression of the Israeli occupation's crisis and severe isolation. He said the Palestinian people are fully aware that this impasse requires continuing the uprising and firmly confronting and obstructing all abortive Israeli maneuvers. He stressed that all Palestinian forces and nationalist figures say that Israel has only one address to seek, that of the PLO, and that the only way to talk with it is through an effective international conference.

On his assessment of the European role, 'Abd Rabbuh explained that this role is active. He said: We in the PLO appreciate the European states' stand, but we call on them to clearly and officially recognize the PLO and upgrade Palestinian representation to them.

He added: The European stand is now identical to ours on an international conference, conditions for its convocation, and powers to participate in it, including the PLO.

He said Europe is called upon to intensify efforts to put pressure on the U.S. stand and Israel to stop escalating its acts of terrorism and repression in occupied Palestine. He said: We have informed Europe that we welcome a proposal by some European circles to dispatch international or even European forces to supervise the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation authorities from Palestine and to prepare for the convocation of an international conference under appropriate circumstances.

On the other hand, 'Abd Rabbuh indicated that the PLO has informed all Arab states and international quarters that Israel is preparing to confront its current impasse through aggression against Lebanon or any other Arab country, as well as terrorism and assassinations against Palestinian leaders. He said the Arab states have an important role to play in confronting this Israeli scheme and in increasing all forms of support and backing for the valiant uprising until Israel is forced to withdraw its forces from holy Palestine.

On the PLO Executive Committee meeting scheduled to be held on 11 February and topics to be raised during the meeting, the PLO Executive Committee member said that many important issues will be discussed, including the recent political gains and developments after the PNC session in Algiers, wide-scale recognition of the state of Palestine, activities of the Arab committee entrusted with supporting the uprising, and the committee's next moves and contacts with the five UN Security Council permanent member states. The PLO Executive Committee will also discuss issues and tasks pertaining to the confrontation of the escalating Israeli terrorism inside the occupied territories, in addition to the issue of calling for a UN session to adopt clear resolutions against Israeli acts of terrorism.

Concluding his statement, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, said that contacts between the PLO and Jordan are continuous. He did not rule out an imminent Jordanian-Palestinian meeting to discuss the developments on the Palestine question.

Arrangements Completed for 'Arafat Syria Visit

JN0502103089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Feb pp 16,12

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—'Umar al-Khatib, director of the PLO office in Amman, has said PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman in the next few days.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Al-Khatib said a number of PLO Executive Committee members will arrive in Jordan in the next few days to pave the way for 'Arafat's visit, during which he will meet with a number of Jordanian officials.

He said the visit is aimed at discussing all developments in the Palestinian question and coordinating between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides in all fields.

Al-Khatib stressed that the PLO has informed several European countries, in which the PLO has offices, about Israeli designs to undermine PLO relations with these countries by carrying out terrorist acts.

Al-Khatib criticized the statements of Israeli Agriculture Minister Sharon [title as published] in which he called for increasing the repression against Arab citizens, stressing these statements expose the terrorist face of Israeli officials.

Al-Khatib said that these statements reveal Israeli Government intentions to find a way out of the big impasse it is in as a result of the heroic uprising.

In another development, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj arrived in Amman yesterday.

Palestinian sources said that the special arrangements for PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Syrian capital Damascus were completed and that the visit will take place during the next few days.

These sources added that the talks held between PLO officials and officials in the Syrian Government were good.

The sources expressed hope that the PLO chairman's visit will open a new page in the Palestinian-Syrian relations.

The sources noted that PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who returned to Amman from Damascus yesterday evening, held positive talks with a number of Syrian officials.

The sourced referred to the good offices which are being exerted by Saudi Arabia to narrow the gap between Palestinian and Syrian viewpoints.

PLO Aides View Bush Administration, Shamir Plan

PM0602170189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "PLO Delays Answer to U.S. Demands on Resumption of Dialogue"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed sources in Cairo that Egypt and some other Arab quarters rejected a request by former President Ronald Reagan's administration urging them to pressure the PLO into accepting U.S. demands made during the first round of U.S.-PLO talks—particularly on the disbanding of military units, including squad 17.

The sources confirmed that former President Reagan's administration told some Arab states that PLO acceptance of the U.S. conditions would prompt the U.S. Government to hold a second round of talks before U.S. President-Elect George Bush's inauguration on 20 January and to raise the level of dialogue.

The sources added that the PLO decided to delay its reply to the U.S. demands submitted during the first round of dialogue because it was convinced that the United States had no intention of holding a second round before George Bush's new administration takes over.

The sources also said that Egypt and other Arab circles told the U.S. Administration that they refuse to put any pressure on the PLO and that the only role they could play is to try to bridge the views of the two sides to ensure continuation, possible development, and success of the dialogue.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leaders in Cairo have unanimously rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan, announced yesterday, expressing "Israel's willingness to withdraw partially from some West Bank and Gaza Strip towns to promote autonomy in the occupied territory and discuss sovereignty over them in accordance with the Camp David agreements."

Palestinian leaders in Cairo yesterday maintained that Shamir's plan contained nothing new and that its real aim is to abort the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territory and circumvent recent PLO diplomatic victories.

PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said that the aim of Shamir's plan was to escape his current dilemma and also to escape reality and the international will demonstrated at the UN General Assembly session in Geneva.

He added that the world, which had long tolerated Israeli crimes and violation of the Geneva Convention and moral and human laws, expected Shamir to respond to international will, but his government's repression of the Palestinian people and its use of all unimaginable methods in the process proved that he cannot respond to appeals for real peace.

Al-Surani urged the United States to take positive steps to establish peace and security in the region after 40 years of violence, so that the region may finally enjoy tranquillity, security, and stability. The Palestinian people and the Arab nation, he said, expect much from the new U.S. Administration. He stressed that there can be no peace unless the Palestinian people's inalienable and legitimate rights are guaranteed, especially their right to self-determination and an independent state.

PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal said that Shamir was playing for time and resisting world support for the PLO since its recent peace initiative and Yasir 'Arafat's UN General Assembly speech in Geneva in the wake of the PNC resolutions in Algiers. Sa'id Kamal reaffirmed the PLO's rejection of Shamir's plan.

Zuhdi al-Qadrah, PLO charge d'affaires and Fatah representative in Cairo, said that Shamir had brought nothing new and was repeating the same old plans already rejected by the Palestinian people in an attempt to deceive world public opinion and to pretend to favor peace. Shamir, he emphasized, knew in advance that his plan would be rejected but was trying to gain time and procrastinate, imagining that he and his defense minister, Rabin, would be able to abort the Palestinian people's uprising before it achieves its objectives.

Usamah Sharab, official in charge of information at the PLO office in Cairo, said that Shamir's move was merely an attempt to mislead world public opinion and foil the uprising which, instead, has escalated and become more volatile. He affirmed that the Palestinian people and their leadership represented by the PLO fully reject that plan. The Palestinian people, he said, are well aware of the dimensions and aims of Shamir's revival of his old and tattered plans and ideas.

Salah Khalaf on U.S. Policy, Pan Am Crash

LD0602215289 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee, in a talk with the press expressed hopes that the administration of U.S. President George Bush will be more flexible in dealing with the Palestinian issue. He pointed out that currently meetings are being held between the Organization and U.S. ambassadors in many embassies. Brother Abu Iyad indicated that the organization rejects the elections that the Zionist enemy intends to organize in the occupied lands. He said that the elections aim to create an alternative leadership to the PLO, or aim to fragment the Palestinians through a leadership that represents part of the Palestinian people. He stressed that both plans are rejected.

Abu Iyad tackled the issue of terrorism practiced by the Zionist enemy at various levels in order to kill the Palestinian people's uprising and distort international perception of the Palestinian individual's right to self- determination and to set up his independent state on Palestinian soil. In this context, he stressed the connection between the Israeli intelligence apparatus and the crime of blowing up the U.S. airliner over Scotland. He said that all data and evidence is unanimous about the existence of Israeli intelligence officers behind that operation.

'Arafat Receives Mubarak Message on Developments

LD0402182789 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Brother leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, which included—according to an informed Palestinian source—an explanation of the new developments of the Palestinian issue and the necessity of concentrating Arab efforts to hold the international peace conference during this year.

Faruq Qaddumi Gives News Conference in Romania

AU0502172189 Bucharest LUMEA in Romanian No 4/26 Jan 89 p 13

[Unattributed report on news conference given by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, entitled "We Nurture Profound Sentiments for the Friendly Romanian People"—in Bucharest, date not given]

[Text] In the middle of last week, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Socialist Romania, received Faruq Qaddumia, head of the PLO Political Department, who paid a visit to our country.

During the meeting, our party's secretary general stressed the particular importance of the proclamation of the independent State of Palestine and said that now, in the current and more favorable conditions created, it is necessary to make new efforts to speedily convene a UN-sponsored international conference on Middle East problems, with the participation of all interested sides, including the State of Palestine, Israel, and the permanent Security Council members. On the same occasion, the head of the PLO Political Department expressed thanks and profound gratitude—on behalf of the PLO and Comrade Yasir 'Arafat—for the steady support granted by the Romanian people and Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu personally to the Palestinian people's struggle and for Socialist Romania's consistent position on politically solving the Middle East problems.

During his visit to our country, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, gave a press conference to representatives of Romanian press, radio, and television. From the very beginning, the Palestinian dignitary emphasized that his official visit to friendly Romania is a sincere expression of the relations existing between the Romanian and Palestinian peoples, two peoples that are struggling for peace in the world.

During my visit to Romania, Faruq Qaddumi said, I had the particular honor of being received by President Nicolae Ceausescu. On this occasion, I briefed him on the latest developments in the Palestinian problem, after the proclamation of the independent State of Palestine, and on steps taken by the PLO to resolve the situation in the Middle East and establish a lasting peace in that area. As is well-known, President Nicolae Ceausescu is the first statesman who pointed out the need to organize an international peace conference on the Middle East.

On various occasions, Romania and President Nicolae Ceausescu have firmly advocated the need to speed up the convening of such an international conference, which can secure the inalienable Palestinian rights and establish a just, lasting, and global peace in the region. We value the fact, the guest said, that Romania was among the first countries that recognized the independent State of Palestine. This is proof of a consistent policy that arises from the relations established between the two peoples; Romania has constantly supported the Palestinian cause from a political, material, and moral viewpoint.

At the same time, I want to particularly emphasize the fact that the Palestinian representation in Romania was elevated to the rank of embassy. We nurture profound sentiments for the friendly Romanian people. Likewise, we are learning from the Romanian people's long experience, strength, and steadfastness in the struggle for independence and in the post-independence period. We particularly value the Romanian people's firm conviction that the Palestinian people, who have suffered so much, should have their own fatherland. This position is corroborated by the concrete efforts made by Romania, President Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian Communist Party, and all the Romanian people.

As you know very well, Faruq Qaddumi further said, steps are currently being taken—which we would like to see expanding—to organize and speedily hold an international peace conference on Middle East problems, if possible, even this year. We advocate a UN-sponsored international peace conference, with the participation of all interested sides, which should lead to just and final peace, to the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and to a solution that can offer security to Israel and all states in the region.

At its latest session, the PNC decided to proclaim the independent State of Palestine. Without recognition of this decision, there will be no peace in the Middle East. A large number of countries, more than 80, have recognized the Palestinian state; a lot of them have announced that the representation level will be raised to the rank of embassy. Likewise, the United Nations decided that the name of Palestine should be used in UN activities, instead of the PLO. We will continue our efforts to ensure an even broader recognition of the Palestinian state.

We welcome the dialogue with any European state, particularly with West European countries, because it is known that they still do not fully recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. In the same order of ideas, Faruq Qaddumi said, it is necessary to engage in talks with the United States, as we want to prove our desire for peace. We want to conduct a clear and open dialogue with the United States, so that it recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the need for an international peace conference. On the other hand, within the framework of our relations with countries in various continents, we are interested in closer ties with states in Latin America and Southeast Asia.

Concerning the revolt of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, this is not a temporary phenomenon; it is ceaselessly growing in strength and has a daily impact on Israel, on the political, military, and socioeconomic life of that state. "Intifadah" [uprising], Faruq Qaddumi said, is a democratic way of struggle. We will continue to use the current means. We consider

the present situation as a stage of the Palestinian revolution in the struggle against the Israeli occupation forces. But even in Israeli political circles, there is talk about the failure of the authorities to subdue the "intifadah" and about the negative consequences of the very harsh methods used to put down the revolt.

In this respect, our immediate goal is to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. We advocate the establishment of an international force, under UN or another kind of aegis, which should be temporarily stationed in the West Bank and Gaza, as an intermediary measure, after the complete elimination of the Israeli occupation from the occupied territories.

DFLP Leader on Forming Interim Government

JN2101160089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Jan 89 pp 25, 30

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] Let us begin our dialogue with the Palestinian provisional government. There is a clear PNC resolution on this issue, but it seems that the facts have changed a bit. Since this issue was the first area discussed in the recent Palestinian leaders' meetings, I hope you will brief us on the results you have reached on this, particularly since there has been no agreement on this point. We would like to know the obstacles and the opinions of all parties.

[Hawatimah] The Algiers PNC resolution was very clear in its definition of the political and organizational bases of the provisional government of the state of Palestine. This resolution affirmed that the government's political program should be based on independence, the PLO's short-term program, and the resolutions adopted by various PNC sessions, particularly the latest one in Algiers.

The PNC has thus decided on the nature and line of the political program, and events since the Algiers PNC session to date confirm that the program, with its three links (the state of Palestine, the provisional government, and the political statement), has generated this worldwide support for the Palestinian people's right to independence and self-determination and for the need to hold dialogue with the PLO. All attempts to find alternatives to the PLO were shattered, and this is what has imposed itself on the U.S. Administration, which opened dialogue with the Palestinians under the pressure of the uprising and the stifling international isolation of the U.S. stand following the Algiers resolutions.

Now we can say that the facts of life have stressed that the basic documents from which the provisional government has to derive its program receive almost comprehensive world support.

The organizational structure of this government has also been resolved by insisting that it should be formed from the factions, forces, and figures that are committed to the PLO and on the basis of the political pluralism existing within the ranks of the PLO and the people in a manner that enshrines national unity. The government should be an extension of the PLO and should be formed by the Palestinian leadership represented by the PLO Central Council and the PLO Executive Committee. It should be subject to the surveillance and supervision of the Central Council, which expresses Palestinian national unity as all the Palestinian people's forces are represented in it. This council will constitute the parliament of this government, since it was given broad legislative jurisdiction following the Algiers resolutions.

Developments since 15 November last year have proved that time is ripe for the formation of a government. One hundred and four states have supported the admission of the state of Palestine to the United Nations. The state of Palestine was also given the full right to participate in the UN Security Council's discussion of issues related to the Palestine question or any other question whenever this is requested by the PLO, which is acting as a provisional government. Moreover, a considerable number of states, including France, Japan, and other West European states, stressed that their recognition of the state of Palestine is linked to the presence of a provisional government for this state.

There is also the general international atmosphere, which stresses the need to expedite the international conference and its preparatory committee in accordance with the UN resolution adopted in Geneva on 15 December last year with a majority of 132 states and on the basis of the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member states and the parties concerned, including the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties. All these factors require serious work to form the government.

Everybody knows that we in the DFLP struggled to form a government during the recent PNC session. When differences emerged, we struggled to determine the political and organizational bases for its formation, provided this takes place as soon as possible. All subsequent developments have shown that this issue is ripe, and it is necessary to push it forward. Therefore, this issue imposed itself on the Palestinian leaders' agenda during the dialogue, which went on for 3 days. Here, I would like to say directly and clearly that we have not reached an agreement. During the meeting, four trends emerged:

The first believes that the conditions are ripe to form the government according to the organizational and structural bases determined by the PNC. We in the DFLP follow this trend. The second trend also believes that the political conditions are ripe, but believes that the government should be formed mostly from figures from inside and outside. Names like Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Hanna Sinyurah, and Hikmat al-Masri were mentioned

from those inside. We assert that this is incompatible with the PNC decision, which was very clear and stipulated that the government should be formed from PLO factions and the forces and figures committed to it, and that the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising should name the people from inside. The third trend believes that conditions are not ripe, while the fourth trend distinguished itself by its silence.

Hence, no common solution to this issue was achieved, and it remains open for dialogue during the next round. A legal and political committee was entrusted with submitting a plan on the provisional government and recommendations about it so that dialogue can be conducted on written papers and in a more specific manner.

Within this context, we have to observe certain Arab, Western European, and U.S. pressures that are trying to postpone the issue of a provisional government. If this is not possible, they will try to exert pressure to form it in a manner that corresponds more to the trends of Western European and U.S. circles, which do not view with satisfaction Palestinian national unity, with the PLO factions constituting its backbone.

Hence, these circles are trying to float, if not to postpone, the provisional government, and to flood it with a number of bureaucrats and technocrats, who will satisfy Western circles at the expense of the principal forces in this revolution and of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising. For 20 years, these forces have shouldered all of the burdens of struggle. Therefore, we insist that the provisional government be formed by the factions, forces, and figures represented in and committed to the PLO. We also insist that the Unified National Leadership should name the independent and national figures from inside the occupied territories.

Those in the trend believing that conditions are not ripe base their position on the fear that Western pressure will achieve a certain success in influencing the formation of the government in a manner that is far from the resolutions of the PNC session in Algiers.

Therefore, as I have said, the provisional government will be on the agenda of the second round of talks.

[Al-Barqawi] Our dialogue will next focus on the popular uprising in the occupied Arab land. As you know, there have been calls by Palestinian, Arab, and international quarters that it be brought to a temporary or permanent halt. The Palestinian leadership has, however, urged its continuation and escalation. How do you see the uprising escalating?

[Hawatimah] The uprising is the key underpinning for all the gains and successes of our people's national cause throughout 1988. The uprising is to be credited with carrying the Palestinian people's rights into every household around the world. It was thanks to the uprising that the Algiers summit was held and made possible the PNC's 19th session resolutions—in its three interrelated links—to be completed. They are complementary links that may not be separated. We will continue to strive for the resolutions not to be reversed.

The uprising is the underpinning that supports the international efforts pressing for an international conference. It is thanks to the uprising that we see this wide international momentum. The uprising beat American intransigence and forced Washington to retreat and then engage the PLO in a dialogue. No effective moves can be made in the Middle East or internationally outside the uprising—hence the need to nurture the uprising and reject all calls that it be halted in the guise of calming things down. Remarkably, George Shultz' letter of 5 December 1988 passed on to the PLO via the Swedish foreign minister, called, among other things, for a halt to the uprising. This is what all of Shultz' plans over the past year have been about.

There are other pressures and these, at times, are expressed through such Palestinian voices, if faint, as that of Ilyas Frayj or within the PLO, pleading that the people have grown exhausted and therefore need a respite. Such calls are not made in good faith. The Palestinian people have not grown tired. Their slogan is that there is no U-turn and the only option open to the Palestinian people is to support the uprising until the occupiers are forced to depart from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the territories are placed under UN supervision to move toward self-determination and independence.

Frankly speaking, these calls are in harmony with American pressures, and we will not give them a chance. This was one of the issues that figured in the meetings. We came up with clear resolutions: no to all calls for the uprising to be halted or scaled down and no to Israeli deception under the pretext of calling municipal and village council elections in exchange for scaling down the uprising. This is because the goal is to end the uprising. We have learned from the experience of the 1976 elections, when pro-PLO figures polled a majority of the popular vote. The occupation authorities then disbanded these councils and targeted their chiefs for assassination.

The lesson to be learned is that there is no trusting the Israeli occupation authorities. When the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising called for elections January 1988 in its second statement, it attached the condition that they be held under UN supervision after the occupation forces have pulled out. Our decision was clear. We said no to these suspect calls and called for fair elections under UN supervision, following the termination of the occupation.

This is the first point of safeguarding the uprising and its unity and of pushing it forward. The second point is to maintain the unity of the Unified National Leadership and prevent any political attempt to drive wedges among the four forces forming the PLO—Fatah, the DFLP, the PFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party. This

means the adoption of a firm stand against the multiplication of one statement, because this causes perplexity and confusion. It also means a firm stand against a declaration on forming a popular army for the uprising in Gaza Strip under "Force 17."

This prompted the Unified National Leadership to reply firmly to this wantonness in its call No 32 by saying that the popular army of the uprising is formed of all striking forces throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip and administered by the four parties and no others, because such claims are attempts to sow differences among the ranks of the Unified National Leadership as well as an attempt to create a rift between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The third point is to reject all pressure maneuvers to stop the uprising under the slogan of calming things down. Hence, the Unified National Leadership's reply in call No 32 was decisive against all calls for tranquillity. It declared that the uprising is continuing and will not stop until occupation is terminated.

The fourth point—and this is an issue falling within the framework of escalating the uprising—is to complete the erection of infrastructures represented by thousands of popular, national, and specialized committees as well as unified construction, labor, educational, and rural councils; completing the formation of forces in every suburb, street, camp, and village and obtaining the resignation of the remaining municipal and village councils appointed by the occupation authorities.

The Unified Leadership and its committees exercise the people's authority instead of these councils. In this way, the uprising's infrastructure becomes a cohesive, comprehensive network throughout Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank on the political, organizational, social, and militant levels. All this is along the road to developing civil disobedience prior to a comprehensive civil disobedience of and estrangement and confrontation with the occupation authorities. This will lead to the emergence of a new situation in the occupied territories requiring direct, large-scale international intervention to find a solution based on terminating the occupation and holding an international conference.

The penultimate point is to provide every means of material support so that the movement of strikes and disobedience can continue. Over 2 million people are on alternate strikes every week. They need bread to eat so that they can continue to stand up, hurl stones, and receive the enemy bullets with their chests until the occupation authorities are convinced that the uprising cannot be broken and they have to search for political solutions based on their departure. The last point is the political practices protecting national unity within the PLO's framework and the discipline of all those who signed the Algiers resolutions. They should not renege on them or slip into dangerous trends.

To safeguard the main condition for the triumph of the uprising, internal national unity should be safeguarded under the Unified Leadership and the unity of all people inside and outside the occupied territories under the PLO. Nobody should resort to practices that might harm national unity and leave repercussions that may exacerbate and produce grave consequences, especially since we have lived 5 bitter years of destructive divisions as a result of actions contrary to the resolutions of national unanimity, Arab interference, or both. This experience should not be repeated.

These are factors that can escalate the uprising until it reaches the stage of comprehensive national disobedience, that is, a comprehensive confrontation with the occupation authorities, from which there will be comprehensive estrangement until their departure.

[Al-Barqawi] Before we move on to the third and last focus, you have said that the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising is comprised of four forces. Don't you think the Islamicists have a viewpoint? The other point I would like to take up with you is your refusal for the popular army to be led by Force-17. Did the subject come up during the meetings, and what kind of reaction has it evoked?

[Hawatimah] The Islamic trend inside the occupied land was discussed from the perspective of the lineup of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising that has born the brunt of operations and their development since 8 December 1987. The Islamic Jihad Organization joined in from the early days within the framework of the Unified Leadership in the Gaza Strip. However, the stream comprising the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which came into existance 10 months after the uprising erupted, kept silent and uninvolved and was even, at times, in competition with the uprising leadership. The most recent case in point was Hamas' passive stand on the Algiers' PNC resolutions.

From the very beginning, Hamas took a line independent of the unified leadership. The DFLP and PLO in general urged joint action, and if that should not prove feasible, we called for Hamas to work in concert with the Unified Leadership to ward off competition or any complicaitons that the Zionist enemy may bank on. And sure enough, the enemy capitalized on more than a complication. We have consistently told Hamas that our paradise on earth will be our people's repatriation and self-determination. Let's not argue about the fate of people in the heareafter, and let's instead find common ground on the fate of our people on earth. Besides, the masses have made themselves clear by pouring cold water on all atempts at competing with the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising and to Hamas' objection to the Algiers' PNC resolutions.

Now Hamas has announced that it stands for the Palestinian state but not for all of the PNC resolutions. Hamas has also said that it will seek coordination with the

Unified Leadership and avoid making any approaches or devising any plans that contradict the leadership. We hope this announcement will be put into practice as soon as possible, since we are advocates of unity of struggle against occupation regardless of our respective ideological perspectives. The issue is not one of ideology now. It is a common struggle until the occupation is ended and independence achieved.

Concerning the second point, it was rejected and denounced by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in call No 32 when it said that Force-17 had nothing to do with the uprising forces in the occupied territories and that these forces are comprised of all of the parties that make up the unified leadership. Further, it will not stand for splitting the ranks of the strike forces and their rallying around this or that faction. Neither will it allow any action that might compromise the uprising.

This issue was bought up at meetings of the Palestinian leaderships a few days ago. Decided and firm resolutions calling for respect for the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising were adopted. It was also decided that all the infrastructure innovated by the people, beginning with the popular committees and ending with the strike forces that make up the nucleus of the popular army, must be insulated from any outside interference. The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising must be consolidated and respected by having it supervise all thse forces and take seriously the items of call No 32 issued on 8 January 1988. The call contains a clear answer to claims connecting the strike forces in the Gaza Strip with Force-17. We can well do without exporting complications from abroad to within.

[Al-Barqawi] The third axis of our dialogue with you deals with the recent Palestinian contacts with the Western European states. Were these contacts assessed in meetings held by the Palestinian leaders? Do you expect a specific outcome from these contacts, and what is your view of their future?

[Hawatimah] Following the Algiers session's resolutions, a huge development took place in the Western European states' stand, which can be called a prominent turning point toward a deeper understanding of the Palestinian people's rights and of their uprising on the path of self-determination and independence. Likewise, a huge development took place in Europe's stand against Israeli occupation, repression, deportations, collective punishment, and demolition of houses. The European group, with its various parties, has insisted on pressuring Israel so it may respond to the international community's willpower and to the realistic political line adopted by the PLO—a line aimed at searching for a comprehensive, just solution to the Middle East problem within the framework of an international conference under UN auspices.

Moreover, West Europe has played an effective role in prompting the U.S. Administration to open a dialogue with the PLO. This is because the PNC resolutions gained an international consensus, except for the United States and Israel. Hence, the United States seemed isolated by the world as represented by the UN General Assembly resolution, which was passed with a majority of 154 votes, urging the United States to retreat from banning the PLO Executive Committee chairman from entering New York to make the Palestinian voice, represented by the Algiers resolutions, heard.

When the United States refused to do so and demonstrated an intransigent stand against overall international willpower, the General Assembly passed a resolution, with the same majority, to move to Geneva to listen to the Palestinian viewpoint, which is searching for a comprehensive solution with a realistic spirit based on the resolutions of international legitimacy pertaining to both the Palestine question and the Middle East problem. Such a solution groups both the UN resolutions, which emphasize the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, an independent state, and independent representation, with the international community's willpower to resolve the Middle East problem between the Arab states and Israel based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Now, we say clearly that the West European states are more and more concerned with attaining a comprehensive solution to the problem not only because of their positive understanding of the Algiers session resolutions but also their geographic proximity and Europe's huge interests on both sides of the Mediterranean, particularly in the Middle East region. Moreover, Europe should accurately note that the United States and Israel are trying to prevent it from playing its role in resolving the Middle East problem and the Palestine question. For West Europe to play its balanced role, it should recognize the State of Palestine.

This state is not only based on international legitimacy but on the strength of the Palestinians' historic and natural rights to their own homeland and on the strength of Resolution No 181 of international legitimacy passed in 1947. Hence, there is no justification whatsoever for the delay in recognizing the state of Palestine or in dealing with the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative [of Palestinians]. According to the PNC's authorization, the PLO assumes the tasks of the provisional government of the state of Palestine. West Europe should upgrade the PLO's political representation to the level of an embassy and full diplomatic relations. By doing so, West Europe can compel Israel to retreat and can also promote the U.S. stand in a way which conforms with the broad international willpower.

Furthermore, West Europe should daily work in accordance with its signatures on the UN General Assembly resolution in Geneva pertaining to the international

conference. All EEC states voted in favor of this resolution, which calls for an international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent Security Council member states and all parties to the Middle East conflict, including the PLO on equal footing with other parties. This is based, as stipulated by the resolution, on Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, led by their right to self-determination, and the UN resolution on repatriation of refugees.

West Europe should translate this approval into practice by pressuring the United States to respond to the formula of an international conference approved by the EEC and the European states' group of 21. West Europe can play its role in a broader manner when it couples its recognition of the state of Palestine and the PLO's full representational capacity with pressure on the United States to push it toward forming a preparatory committee for the international conference.

West Europe should also pressure the United States into stopping its maneuvers to disavow the Geneva resolution and push matters anew in the direction of direct bilateral negotiations under U.S. supervision. It should also bring pressure to bear on Israel and prevent it from continuing its maneuver to destroy international legality and present deceptive and faise proposals such as Shamir's proposal for direct talks between the Arab countries and Israel, thereby completely ignoring the Palestinian people and their national rights. His proposal also calls for a formal formula for UN supervision confined to opening the direct bilateral talks, or a formal formula for the role of the Soviet Union and the United States, and will then revert to the 1973 Geneva formula from which the Palestinian people and their representative are crossed out. The world in 1989 is not the same as that of 1973.

During our recent meeting, we discussed and categorically rejected the Israeli proposals and U.S. maneuvers because they ignore the international will and revert to the policy of bilateral talks and solutions. These proposals try to cancel the role of the United Nations and West Europe so that the United States and Israel alone will dominate the the Middle East issue, tilt the balance in their favor, and dictate their conditions. Things will thus return to the Camp David formula, but in other colors. We insist that the international conference should be attended by the UN Security Council's five permanent member states.

[Al-Barqawi] Within the same axis, the European group will meet on 15 February to discuss the Mideast issue. This meeting will be preceded by a contact with the PLO by a tripartite delegation made up from France, Spain, and Greece. There are some who affirm that West European states may individually recognize the state of Palestine. How do you view this?

[Hawatimah] We have initial information that Greece and Spain better understand the importance of recognizing the state of Palestine. We also note a development in France's stance and even in the recent British position. However, we frankly say that a number of West European states, specifically Britain, the FRG, and the Netherlands, have obstructed a developed EC stand at the recent summit in Rhodes following the PNC resolutions. We hope that the large-scale understanding within the ranks of the West European public opinion, parties, and unions—all of which are influential in shaping the political decision—will be translated into practice by recognizing the state of Palestine and stongly insisting on forming a preparatory committee for the international conference as soon as possible.

Now, as all know, France, Spain, and Greece were asked to contact the PLO and the other parties to the conflict in the Middle East in the hope of crystallizing a new European initiative. It has become clear that any rejected initiative is worthless, and this is what Shamir wagered on when he addressed Europe saying he believes the European stand will pass and, therefore, he is not afraid of swimming against the current that is forming in Europe. He is thus directly insulting the European peoples and their political maturity and awareness of world problems, particularly with their neighbors in the Middle East.

We hope the reply will be practical and will circumvent the Israeli maneuvers, which refuse to admit the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state. We also hope that Europe will come forward with a practical initiative headed by their recogniton of the state of Palestine and the PLO's full organizational capacity.

Palestinian Embassy Opens in Sri Lanka

JN0602173989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] An embassy of the State of Palestine was opened in Colombo, Sri Lanka, today. Last September, the Sri Lankan Government declared its recognition of the Palestinian state and also decided to grant the PLO's representation the status of an embassy. The opening ceremony was attended by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Abdul Cader Shahul Hameed, prominent political and social figures, and the heads of the political missions in Colombo.

Egypt

Mubarak on Arab Economic Grouping, Syria

NC0602185689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Aswan, 6 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has repeated his assertion that the Arab economic grouping is not a political one or an axis directed against anyone but instead an economic grouping of Arab states linked by economic relations. He said that the grouping is open to any fraternal Arab state wishing to join.

This was stated by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following the popular meeting which President Husni Mubarak attended in Aswan today. He said that President Mubarak explained that this grouping represents the organization and coordination of the activities of the joint committees representing Egypt and Jordan, Iraq, and the YAR. He pointed out that it does not constitute a political axis. He added that Egypt is doing its duty and shouldering its responsibilities toward the Arab nation with all its capabilities, whether this is done within or outside the Arab League.

The information minister added that during the meeting, President Muabark answered a question on Egyptian-Syrian relations and asserted that there are no contacts with the brothers in Syria.

During the meeting, which was attended by a large number of popular leaders and officials of the Aswan Governorate, President Mubarak also referred to the method used in the elections for the Consultative Council and the possible application of this method in the People's Assembly elections. He said that the Consultative Council elections will be carried out in accordance with the individual election system. He added that in light of the results of this experiment, the method used in the People's Assembly elections will be reviewed. [passage omitted]

Regarding the country's economic policy, President Mubarak announced that the subsidy for commodities amounts to about 10 billion pounds annually. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak commented on the rumors that all commodity prices will be raised at the beginning of July. He said that there will be absolutely no increase in prices and added that the government is always concerned about subsidizing staples for the majority of citizens and maintaining prices at their present level. He emphasized that the government adopts only decisions which are always for the good of the people.

Responding to a question on the importance of reaching agreement with the IMF, President Mubarak explained that agreement with the IMF, whether in the case of Egypt or that of other countries, indicates a country's ability to meet its economic commitments. He noted that Egypt is adopting an economic policy serving its citizens' interests.

The president remarked that though Egypt might disagree with IMF policies, it still believes in the need for economic reform.

On the issue of stability, Prsident Mubarak said that you cannot achieve developments or economic reforms or build a democracy without it. He noted that stability forms a basic foundation and constitutes security for national action and for capital and investment whether is foreign, Arab, or Egyptian investment. He declared that without stability, no investor will feel secure in setting up projects in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak reviewed developments on this issue, President al-Sadat's initiative, and the two frameworks of the Camp David agreements. He explained how the first framework resulted in signing the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He said the second framework for the resolution of all aspects of the Palestinian issue has not had any results because of the disagreement among the parties concerned.

President Mubarak also explained the positive development of a clear and specific Palestinian stand for dealing with the issue. He noted the importance of exploiting this success and making the utmost Palestinian and Arab efforts in order to make up for opportunities lost since 1947.

Official Views Inter-Arab Cooperation

NC0202220289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 2 Feb (MENA)—Ambassador Muhammad Sami Haybah, Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary, has affirmed that there is room for further cooperation among Egypt, YAR, Iraq, and Jordan in light of the current atmosphere in the Arab world.

He said that now the Gulf war has ended, Iraq has entered the reconstruction phase, and Egypt, Jordan, and the YAR are engaged in development and economic reform activities. Therefore, the door is open for constructive cooperation, including transferring Arab capital and labor among these countries.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Sanaa, the Egyptian official explained that the current status in international relations and the increasing influence of the international economic groups require further inter-Arab coordination to safeguard Arab interests. He said his visit to the YAR with his accompanying delegation is connected to implementing the agreement approved by the higher Egyptian-YAR joint committee during its meetings in Cairo in October last year. [passage omitted]

Sources on 'Concealed Crisis' With Saudi Arabia

NC0702095389 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 Feb 89 pp 1, 9

[Excerpts] King Husayn of Jordan began a 2-day official visit to Iraq yesterday. Meanwhile, the Arab quadripartite grouping, which AL-SAFIR has learned caused the crisis between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, will hold a preparatory intergovernmental meeting in Amman on 14 February. [passage omitted]

AL-SAFIR has learned from knowledgeable sources in Cairo that a concealed crisis has emerged between Saudi Arabia and Egypt because of several Arab political and economic issues.

According to the sources, Egypt believes that Saudi Arabia was behind the decision by certain GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, not to finance or participate in the Arab Industrialization Authority; the refusal by the Arab Development Fund to lend Egypt $2 billion unless IMF approval was secured; and the delay in the convening of the Arab summit in Riyadh to avoid Egypt's participation.

The sources add that Saudi Arabia, in turn, believes that Egypt is directly responsible for Iraq's and the YAR' decision to join the quadripartite economic grouping. The Saudis believe that Iraq's membership in such a grouping is bound to turn both Iraq and Egypt into an economic, political, and military power which would compete with the GCC in general, and Saudi Arabia in particular. Moreover, the YAR'S membership in such a grouping is bound to encourage the Yemenis to raise the issue of the border dispute with Saudi Arabia, particularly in the northern sector.

The sources add that Saudi Arabia views Egypt's efforts to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait in connection with their border dispute, as well as the pressure exerted by Egypt to convince Iraq to make concessions to Kuwait on this matter, as an attempt to encourage Kuwait to join the quadripartite grouping, thus creating a division within the GCC.

Negotiations on Tabah Tourist Facilities Begin

NC0602132589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The first session of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on the tourist installations in the Tabah area began at the Tourism Ministry today. Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, chaired the Egyptian delegation to the talks, and Shim'on Shamir, Israeli ambassador to Cairo, chaired the Israeli delegation. The first round of negotiations revolved around the views of the Egyptian delegation on the study being conducted by the Israeli delegation, with the help of a U.S. firm of experts, concerning monetary compensation for the tourist installations in question.

The second round of negotiations will be held next Wednesday and will be attended by the proprietors of the tourist installations in Tabah.

Reportage on Visit by Italian President Cossiga

Arrives in Aswan 5 Feb

NC0502112089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Aswan, 5 Feb (MENA)—Italian President Francesco Cossiga arrived in Aswan at noon today from Rome on the first leg of a tour of a number of African countries, including Egypt, Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Somalia. He was received at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Qadri 'Uthman Badr, governor of Aswan.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC0502133389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Aswan, 5 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Italian President Francesco Cossiga held a round of talks at the Aswan Cataract Hotel this afternoon. The session was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Leaves for Nairobi

NC0502163489 Cairo MENA in English 1610 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Aswan, Feb 5 (MENA)—Italian President Francesco Cossiga left here today for Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of a few hours visit to Aswan during which he had talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Cossiga was seen off at Aswan Airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy premier and foreign minister, and Qadri 'Uthman, governor of Aswan.

'Abd al-Majid, Andreotti Hold News Conference

NC0502175689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1643 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Aswan, 5 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti held a joint news conference at the Aswan Cataract Hotel today. The two foreign ministers spoke about the outcome of today's talks between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Italian President Francesco Cossiga.

For his part, Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the two presidents' talks as very cordial, successful, and fruitful. The discussion, he added, dealt with the situation in the Middle East and involved an exchange of views on various international issues and on bilateral relations, which he described as excellent.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that it had been decided during the two presidents' talks to hold a meeting of the Egyptian-Italian Higher Joint Committee under the co-chairmanship of the two countries' foreign ministers in Cairo in the second half of March. The last meeting of this committee took place in Rome recently, and all aspects of technical cooperation and joint investment between the two countries were taken up on that occasion, he added. He pointed out that Italy is in the forefront of countries contributing to the development process in Egypt, by means of extending grants or loans on easy terms. He said he hoped the coming meeting in March would provide momentum for this.

Speaking during the press conference, Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti said President Cossiga had come to Aswan to meet with President Mubarak and exchange views on the most important international issues, as well as regional problems. He added that the discussions between the two presidents had not involved bilateral problems, because there are none. He referred to the upcoming meeting in in March between Egyptian and Ialian teams under the chairmanship of the two foreign ministers.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid was asked about an earlier statement by President Mubarak that he may visit Israel and whether this possiblity still exists or whether subsequent developments have altered the situation. Dr 'Abd al-Majid said; I think what you mean is that the president's stated he is ready to visit Israel if such a visit will produce crucial results regarding the Palestinian issue. From this statement it is clear that such a visit would take place if Israel were to provide the conditions to achieve tangible results toward a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he thinks that this position still stands, adding that it is now Israel's turn to take a position which would promote such a possibility.

Referring to Italy's stand on the recent developments in the Palestinian issue, Andreotti said: In its capacity as an EC member, Italy has expressed its positive appreciation of the resolutions which the PNC recently adopted in Algiers and of the subsequent Palestinian declarations, particularly the recognition of Israel, abandonment of terrorism, and recognition of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Italian official described the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue as a new development in the Middle East peace process.

Answering a question on the Italian president's tour of Africa and the Italian point of view on the issue of Third World debts, Andreotti said: There are specific circles which deal with the problems of debts payment, talks with the IMF and major industrialized states, provisional proposals for solutions, and the problem of states which cannot pay their debts. He added that the debts of these states could be cancelled or rescheduled and that the interest rate could be reduced.

The Italian minister pointed out that his country has taken steps pertaining to the long-term rescheduling of debts with grace periods, and to the reduction of interest rates. He said that problems between the creditor countries and banks could be settled politically through broad agreement on ways to end the economic crises.

Andreotti referred in this respect to the assumption by former U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker of the post of U.S. Secretary of State. He said that Baker could submit new proposals regarding the debts because one third of Africa's debts are to the United States.

Answering a number of questions by Italian journalists on Egypt, the Arab League, the quadripartite economic grouping, and the Italian role in the Middle East issue, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Egypt's stand on its return to the Arab League is clear. Egypt is gradually returning to the Arab nation, Arab organizations, and the Arab League.

'Abd al-Majid asserted that there is clear progress in Arab-Egyptian relations. He added: The question of the economic grouping is currently being discussed among the four founding members. This grouping is open to all other Arab states to join and is not directed against anyone. He explained that this is an Arab grouping, the goal of which is to serve common interests and coordinate economic cooperation.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the Italian role in the Middle East issue as important and tangible. He expressed Egypt's gratitude for this role which Italy has been carrying out for a long time.

Libya

Manager Interviewed on Deception of Company

AU0602134089 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 6 Feb 89 pp 48-49

[Interview with Ernst Pieper, manager of the Salzgitter Company: "The Deceit Was Apparently Perfect"; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] DER SPIEGEL: Do you think you have contributed to increasing Al-Qadhdhafi's poison gas potential?

Pieper: No. One thing is certain: The Salzgitter Company has apparently been deceived. In 1984 we received an order from Imhausen Chemie to provide a limited part of the engineering for a chemical plant where primary and intermediate pharmaceutical products are to be produced. We had to hand over these drawings to the German customer in the FRG. We were told that the plant would be established in Hong Kong.

DER SPIEGEL: The auditors of your firm discovered a letter from Imhausen, together with a telex, which contains the name of Al-Rabitah. Was nobody on your staff surprised about this?

Pieper: Immediately following the emergence of information about the involvement of the Salzgitter Industriebau company in a project Pharma 150 in Libya, our internal auditors started intensive investigations. After 14 days of searching, a telex in English was discovered by our auditor, dated February 1985, which contains the words "rabt," "rasta," and "rabta." At the time, these words were not identified as names of places by the employees who were in charge of the project.

DER SPIEGEL: The managers of your subsidiary did not come across the word Al-Rabitah either?

Pieper: Those who were responsible for this business deal never saw this telex which only contains electronic data. They never came across the word Al-Rabitah.

DER SPIEGEL: How have you been deceived?

Pieper: Through Imhausen we received plans and arrangement drawings from Italian and French companies, showing the detailed equipment of the plant. On this basis, we designed the foundations and the system of electrical lines and pipelines. According to our knowledge, nearly another hundred German, European, and U.S. enterprises participated in the Pharma 150 project, and so none of the companies really knew what was going on.

DER SPIEGEL: Is it possible for an enterprise to prepare plans of plant parts without being informed about the purpose and the overall concept?

Pieper: Of course. The part of the engineering that was planned by us, including electrical equipment and pipelines, is not limited to specific application. It frequently happens that, to protect the know-how, contractors do not inform us about the intended use of the pipelines. The contractor, however, is obliged to provide information about the environmental conditions to enable us to prepare the detailed engineering. We were told, for example, that there would be no dust or sand in the entire plant area. I think that this is not exactly a hint that the plant was to have been built in the Libyan desert. [passage omitted]

Metals Plant Finished; Austrian Minister Visits

AU0702100989 Vienna NEUE AZ in German 7 Feb 89 p 18

[Text] Vienna (APA)—In March the first stage of the large Libyan order to the VOEST-Alpine Industrial Installation Construction Company, the metallurgical plant in Misurata, will be put into operation. It comprises a direct reduction facility and an adjacent steel mill. NEUE AZ already reported on this. The broad strip facility and a cold rolling mill are scheduled to be put into operation during the second half of the year. VOEST-Alpine, which has been acting as a syndicate leader for the overall order that is worth 30 billion schillings, delivered installations worth more than 13 billion schillings.

On Monday [6 February] in Linz, on the occasion of the visit of Libya's Industry Secretary Fathi Ahmad ibn Shatwan, an agreement in principle was signed on further cooperation between the VOEST-Alpine Industrial Installation Construction Company and the operator of the Misurata metallurgical plant.

The agreement in principle is a protocol of intent supported by the Libyan and the Austrian Governments, within the framework of which detailed contracts are to be worked out by June, the VOEST-Alpine Industrial Installation Construction Company reports. It involves aid in operating the metallurgical plant, including the training of Libyan personnel. Furthermore, manufacturing centers for further processing, for metal sheet processing and zinc coating among other things, are to be established.

Mauritania

Taya on 'Gradual Change' to Multiparty System

AB0302215089 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] In Mauritania, President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya has given clarifications on the political future of his country. According to him, elections and the multiparty system will not be coming soon. Although they are part of his policy, he still prefers gradual change. First, he wants to make sure that his people are politically mature and, primarily, that national unity is achieved.

It is therefore out of the question to rush into things, the Mauritanian leader stated. Barely 32 percent of Mauritanians have been to school and driving them unprepared into the multiparty system, which often engenders division and internal dispute, would be putting the cart before the horse. The Mauritanian people, the head of state said, still need good citizenship training to be good members of the party and this is why a mass education organization, the sole ruling party, was set up.

Now, what do the Mauritanian people who want elections or the multiparty system think of President Taya's stand on this matter? Apparently there is no answer to the question since, according to the Nouakchott government, there is no opposition in the country and even the dissidents who wanted to fan the flames of the fabricated problem of racism between white and black Mauritanians failed in their undertaking.

In short, President Taya has the situation under control, in spite of the minor difficulties he faced in the days following his takeover.

Morocco

Algeria's Chadli Bendjedid Arrives in Fes

LD0602140389 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 6/2/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid arrived Monday to Fes for a friendship and working visit to Morocco at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II.

The president of the Republic is mainly accompanied by Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh; the director of the cabinet at the Presidency, Larbi Belkheir; the executive secretary of the Ministry of National Defense, General Mustapha Cheloufi; Minister of Interior and Environment Boubaker Belcaid; Minister of Transports El-Hadi Khediri; Minister of Energy, Chemical and Petrochemical Industries Sadek Boussena; Minister of Commerce Mourad Medelci and General Mohamed Betchine, general delegate for prevention and security.

Sudan

Government Requests Renewal of State of Emergency

EA0702170489 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 07 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA)—The government of Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi has asked the Constituent Assembly (parliament) for renewal of the state of emergency in the country for another six months beginning today. The request was yesterday tabled by the Supreme Council in the Assembly, according to the Sudanese Transitional Constitution.

The assembly has yesterday responded to a government request to amend Article 24 of the state of emergency law introducing precautionary detention. The assembly, in which the government enjoys a mechanic majority [as received] is expected to pass the new six months period as it passed the precautionary detention amendment, in spite of the opposition protests and warning of misuse of the law.

Defending the government request yesterday, the new attorney general told the assembly the state of war in the south and the west, and the security disturbances in the eastern parts of the country, make the request for extension of the state of emergency necessary. It is to be recalled when the press and the opposition speak of infiltration of Libyan forces or rebel Chadian troops into the western parts of the country, the government is quick to deny such reports.

Attorney General Hafiz al-Shaykh al Zaki also said the recent economic measures, including close surveillance of the foreign currency dealers who were recently released from detention under provisional order, need government protection under a state of emergency. The government is hunting foreign exchange dealers and black market racketeers with a view to channelling foreign exchange transfers through the banking system.

Defense Minister Denies Reports of Resignation

JN0702164389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb (INA)—Sudanese Defense Minister General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil has denied reports that he tendered his resignation.

In a statement to an INA correspondent here today, he stressed that he is still in office to serve the Sudanese Armed Forces—the unity of which some local and foreign parties are trying to compromise.

AL-RA'Y newspaper published here yesterday said that Gen Khalil submitted his resignation in protest of intervention by some politicians in Armed Forces affairs. Some foreign broadcasts carried the report citing AL-RA'Y.

Government Reacts To U.S. Mediation Offer

EA0602151589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Feb (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi yesterday said that Sudan did not receive official notice from the American Government over its intention to mediate between the Sudanese Government and the rebel SPLM.

The foreign minister said in a press statement yesterday that the reported mediation bid by the U.S. "has not yet found its way to the official channels at the Sudanese Government". Dr al-Turabi added that "such measures might be a future intention for the American Government or a reflection of certain internal political relationships in the U.S."

Meanwhile, Economy and External Trade Minister Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad said yesterday that Sudan welcomes any efforts by the U.S. to convince the rebel movement of peace. "Sudan welcomes efforts by any circles that could persuade the rebellion movement to accept peace", Ahmad added.

SPLM-Democratic Unionist Contacts Continue

EA0602174389 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Feb (SUNA)—Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, will receive today a message from John Garang, leader of the SPLM, the daily AL-KHARTOUM of today reported. Leader of the African parties opposition, Eliaba James Surur, who met Garang in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa last week, will deliver

the message to Al-Mirghani. The message affirms the SPLM commitment to the peace initiative signed recently between the DUP and the SPLM, Surur said to the paper.

On the other hand, a delegation from the DUP will leave for Ethiopia tomorrow, Tuesday, for continuing peace talks with the leaders of the SPLM. The delegation is expected to carry a message from the DUP leader to Garang in response to Garang's said message.

Rebels Propose Talks

EA0602214489 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] An SPLM-SPLA spokesman told Radio SPLA yesterday that the SPLA commander in chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, had received a letter from nine enemy garrisons in the south. The text of the letter reads as follows:

Please inform Comrade John Garang de Mabior that we have sent an important telegram to the minister of defense, 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, copied to Comrade John Garang de Mabior. What our country needs, first and foremost is peace. Please inform John Garang de Maboir that we have also sent a letter to the Democratic Unionist Party leader, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, congratulating him on his joint efforts with the SPLA to bring peace to our country, Sudan. John Garang should be very patient because we will act immediately if Sadiq al-Mahdi and Al-Turabi completely refuse to talk to the SPLA in order to bring peace to the country.

The garrison commanders who signed the letter are the commanders of Torit, Malakal, Wau, Juba, Rumbek, Maridi, Gogrial, Raga and Waat garrisons.

The spokesman said that for a long time the SPLA has been wanting to talk directly to enemy soldiers in the south. The spokesman went on:

It will not help if soldiers overthrow the Khartoum Government. Toppling the government will not solve the problems of our country. There is no single party that can solve all the problems of Sudan on its own. The participation of all the political forces is needed if we are to bring a lasting solution to Sudan's fundamental problems. The spokesman said there will not be peace in Sudan until all the parties come together. He also said the SPLA-DUP peace initiative is the only way to bring about peace. He said that if the SPLA can talk to the DUP, it can talk to the enemy soldiers in the south as well.

Minister Calls Malakal Situation 'Stable'

EA0402080689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Major General Qasmallah Abdullah Rasas, retired, member of the Southern Council and its minister for administration and regional affairs, has confirmed that the security situation in Malakal is stable. His excellency said that during his last visit to Malakal, he briefed officials there on government efforts to supply food and medicine. He said the government was determined to bring about peace in the country.

The officials briefed his excellency on conditions affecting the citizens and on the regularity of workers' pay. He called on the citizens to expedite the transfer of the administration of the region from Khartoum to Malakal. It is worth mentioning that the minister paid a similar visit to Bahr al-Ghazal Region last month to ascertain the state of security and living conditions.

Malakal Civilians Given 72 Hours To Evacuate

EA0602204289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The COS and Axis Three commander, Commander William Nyon Bany, today issued a strong warning to Khartoum's soldiers in Akobo, Waat and Fam al-Zaraf to evacuate these garrisons within 96 hours, that is within the next 4 days, either as a unit or as individuals. Otherwise, Cdr William Nyon Bany warned, what happened in Nasir, resulting in its total destruction, will also happen to them. And why wait for death or capture when nobody in Khartoum knows nor cares for your conditions and suffering?

Cdr William Nyon Bany went on to assure a Radio SPLA correspondent that SPLA had completed all the necessary preparations to capture all of Akobo, Waat, Fam al-Zaraf and to take the war to inside Malakal itself. Accordingly, Cdr William Nyon Bany warned the civilians in Malakal to evacuate the town immediately so that they are not caught up in cross-fire.

Cdr William Nyon Bany said that his forces had captured heavy artillery in Nasir including howitzers, BM-30 (?Plastic) missiles with 30 barrels that can fire at once, 120-mm mortar, and tanks. He said these will be used against Malakal Town within the next 72 hours.

Malakal will come under heavy artillery bombardments and civilians are given 72 hours to evacuate the town. This warning goes into effect as of 1500 hours today, Monday, February the 6th 1989. Any civilian who remains in Malakal after this date will be responsible for the consequences. All civilians are to come to Nasir where the SRRA [Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association] will take care of them.

Bahrain

Somali Political Bureau Member Arrives

JN0402104189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle, Somali Political Bureau member and deputy prime minister for social and security affairs, arrived in Manama this morning with a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

The visit to Bahrain is part of a tour of the region by Abdulle, who is accompanied by Somali Agricultural Minister Abdirizak Mohamud Abubakar.

Delivers Message to Amir

JN0402120089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 4 Feb (WAKH)—At noon today, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received a message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on bilateral relations and means of promoting them as well as developments on the Arab scene.

The message was delivered by Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle, Somali president's envoy, Political Bureau member, and deputy prime minister for social and security affairs, who is accompanied by the Agricultural Minister Abdirizak Mohamud Abubakar.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, minister of interior and acting foreign minister; Shaykh Khalifah ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, minister of labor and social affairs; and Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant interior under secretary for passport and immigration affairs.

Departs 5 Feb

JN0502135889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Manama, 5 Feb (WAKH)—Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle, Somali Political Bureau member and deputy prime minister for social and security affairs, left Manama for Jeddah at noon today accompanied by Somali Agriculture Minister Abdirizak Mohamud Abubakar after a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

During his visit, Mr Abdulle delivered a written message to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah from Somali President Siad Barre. The message deals with strengthening bilateral relations, developments in the Horn of Africa, in addition to developments in the Arab arena.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Signs Deal for UK Helicopters

LD0702125189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 7 (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al- Sabah signed a deal here with a representative of a British helicopter manufacturing company, according to which Kuwait will purchase helicopters and its accessories for the Kuwait Air Forces. The helicopters will be used for training purposes.

The signing of the deal was attended by senior Kuwaiti military officials.

Meanwhile, it was announced here Tuesday that Shaykh Nawwaf will pay a three-day visit to Qatar next week. According to a statement issued by the Defence Ministry, the visit will start next Sunday and it comes in response to an invitation by Qatari Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani.

The Kuwaiti minister will be accompanied by senior officials from the Defence Ministry.

French Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart, Leaves

LD0602182489 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Feb (KUNA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Kuwait this evening for Paris after a 3 and ½ hour visit. The French minister held talks with acting prime minister and foreign minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. They discussed bilateral relations, and efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis by international groups and the Arab six-man committee, chaired by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. The talks also covered the Middle East problem, the latest developments on the Palestinian scene, in addition to a number of international issues of common interest.

Answering a question by newsmen, Minister Dumas affirmed the consistency of French policy in the Gulf region. He said that his current visit reinforced this trend, and rejected suggestions that his country is under pressure to amend its policy in the region. He spoke about a decision to normalize French-Iranian relations, saying that this implies resumption of economic cooperation between the two countries. He added that this decision was made in light of Iran's agreement to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Qatar

Somali Official Arrives From Muscat 1 Feb

JN0102115289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 1 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 1 Feb (WAKH)—Ahmad Suleiman Abdulle, Somali deputy prime minister for security, defense, and social affairs, arrived in Doha today from Muscat on a 3-day visit to Qatar. [passage omitted]

Delivers Message to Amir

JN0202111289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 2 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre dealing with developments in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, as well as the current Arab situation and ways to support and promote bilateral relations. Ahmed Suleiman Abdulle, Somali political bureau member and deputy prime minister for social and security affairs, delivered the message when his highness the Amir if Qatar received him and his delegation here this morning.

British Official Departs Following Visit

JN0202125489 Manama WAKH on Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 2 Feb (WAKH)—Sir Archibald Hamilton, British undersecretary of state for defense procurement, left Doha at noon today following a 3-day visit to Qatar. He was seen off at Doha International Airport by Colonel Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah Al Thani, assistant deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces. During the visit, the British minister held talks with Col Shaykh 'Abdallah ibn Khalifah Al Thani.

Yemen Arab Republic

Visiting Syrian Delegation Discusses Cooperation

Salih, Al-Zu'bi Confer

JN0602165689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this morning received Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Present were YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani and delegations attending meetings of the joint Syria-YAR committee. President Salih lauded the fraternal ties between the two brotherly peoples and countries, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and coordination in the interests of Arab integration, a reinforced common Arab action, and tackling challenges confronting the Arab nation.

The prime minister lauded the YAR's major successes and achievements under the leadership of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The YAR president was then briefed on the progress of the work of the joint Syria-YAR committee now in session in Sanaa. He hoped the meetings will live up to the expections and meet with the common interests of the two brotherly peoples. He voiced satisfaction with the work of the committee and asked the head and members of the YAR delegation attending the committee meetings to work toward implementing all of its decisions and recommendations.

The two sides discussed relations between the two brotherly states in all spheres in addition to Arab and international developments.

Ministers Discuss Development

JN0602195389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Husayn al-Kurshumi, minister of public works and transportation, met with Muhammad Marwan al-Farra, Syrian minister of construction and building, in Sanaa today. They reviewed spheres of joint coordination and cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the areas of construction, building, the various development projects, and the exchange of expertise. They also discussed ways to promote and bolster this cooperation to serve the interests of the two peoples in both fraternal countries. The meeting was attended by brother Muhammad al-Tayyib, deputy minister of public works and transportation and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of officials.

Brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, also met with brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade. They discussed aspects of the joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries in the economic, trade, currency, and maritime transportation areas. They also reviewed ways to promote the spheres of this cooperation through preparing programs and exchanging visits to activate the trade exchange and hold exhibitions to sell the various products in both countries. The meeting was attended by Muhyi al-Din al-Dhubbi, the ministry's under secretary for the economic sector; and a number of Syrian officials accompanying the Syrian minister.

More on Development Discussions

JN0602191989 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Department, and member of the Standing Committee, held a meeting with Salim Yasin, Syrian deputy prime minister for economic affairs, in Sanaa today. They reviewed economic and development relations between the two countries as well as ways to bolster them. The meeting was attended by Mutahhar al-Sa'idi, deputy minister of development and deputy head of the Central Planning Department.

'Text' of 'Aziz Letter to UN Secretary General

JN0602152389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad 6 Feb (INA)—A letter Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed that Iraq rejects any Iranian preconditions for the resumption of negotiations and Iraq believes that continuing negotiations on the basis of the 8 August 1988 agreement is the only way to achieve success.

In his letter, which he sent on the occasion of the elapse of 6 months since the 8 August 1988 Iraq-Iran war cease-fire agreement was signed, and the beginning of direct negotiations to end the war, Tariq 'Aziz added that Resolution 598 is a peace plan which should be implemented through joint understanding under the secretary general's auspices and on the basis of international law and the method of resolving disputes among states in the modern age on the basis of the 8 August agreement.

The Iraqi letter indicated that Iran is behaving as if it were imposing war in a new manner and that objective evaluation of the practical facts of the peace negotiations and the stand of both sides leads to the conclusions that the Iranian side is adopting a selective stand toward the resolution and is evading all obligations of the resolution.

In his letter, Tariq 'Aziz said that the Security Council resolution should be implemented through reaching a common understanding of its provisions in negotiations between the two sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general and his two assistants in order to attain a durable and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran on the basis of the principles and laws governing international relations under the UN Charter and international law.

He indicated that the Iranian side is concentrating on a single point of the resolution without elaborating on it's stand on the other points, a matter that could not be a real and guaranteed start for a comprehensive, balanced, and permanent peace. This arouses suspicion over the seriousness of the Iranian side in meeting its obligations.

He stressed that the real guarantee for the safe implementation of Resolution 598 is to work without hesitation or prevarication to consolidate and stabilize the cease-fire through agreement on its provisions and reciprocal obligations according to it and then reach joint understanding on the rest of its provisions.

Tariq 'Aziz' letter stressed that Iraq had agreed with the proposal of Jan Eliasson during his recent visit to set up a mixed military commission to deal with the problems which might arise from the implementation of cease-fire and the lifting of ban on aerial navigation heading for Iran. It also released 255 Iranian prisoners of war unilaterally and through an initiative that was not preceded by discussion or negotiation. It stated that these Iraqi initiatives were made out of concern for the peace process and to boost the peace process.

The letter stressed that Iraq highly appreciates the efforts of the UN secretary general and his personal representative Jan Eliasson in supervising the negotiations and their strenuous efforts to achieve progress in them.

Tariq 'Aziz' letter stressed that Iraq will spare no effort to cooperate with the UN secretary general and his representative in a constructive manner in order to attain a comprehensive and durable peace between Iraq and Iran and in the region.

It added that Iraq believes that continuing negotiations on the basis of the 8 August 1988 agreement is the only way to achieve success. It added that Iraq categorically rejects any Iranian preconditions for the resumption of negotiations.

The following is the text of the letter.

Your Excellency: To mark the elapse of approximately 6 months since the 8 August 1988 agreement under which Iraq and Iran accepted the ceasefire and agreed to enter into direct negotiations sponsored by you, and on the occasion of the visit of your personal representative Mr Jan Eliasson, during which we held constructive and fruitful talks, I would like to bring to your attention our assessment of the situation concerning implementation of Resolution 598 of 1987.

It is known that the Iranians had refused to accept Resolution 598 immediately after it was passed, and pursued the war and acts of aggression and invasion of Iraqi territory throughout the ensuing period. The Iranian side consented to the resolution on 18 July 1988, nearly a year after it was passed, in circumstances that are known to you and the international community. These circumstances stemmed from Iraq's success in liberating its occupied territory that the Iranians had insisted on keeping for several years and used as a launching pad for further occupation and to promote expansionist aims that used to be expressed in flagrant fashion.

Despite our full knowledge of the facts, Iraq handled Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 realistically and responsibly. We embarked upon seeking the best and most direct means of implementing the resolution, looking at it as a peace plan. On 20 July 1988, we sent Your Excellency a letter in which we called for official and direct talks between authorized representatives of the two sides under the auspices of the UN secretary general to look into implementation of Resolution 598 of 1987. Our suggestion was prompted by a sincere desire to ascertain the real intentions of Iranian officials regarding

their acceptance of Resolution 598 and practical necessities that call for a clear confirmation of the Iranian perception of the resolution.

This is the practical and logical approach to resolution of all disputes around the world, especially given that the Iranian official statements concerning their acceptance of the resolution were full of talk about their unusual and pressing circumstances which they could not reveal as well as the resulting disappointment. Meanwhile, these officials gave strange explanations of the letter and spirit of the resolution that ran counter to international law and the rules presently governing relations among nations.

Iraq's demand that direct negotiations be held was not a precondition as Iran had contended at the time, as such tactics do not meet Iraq's unilateral interests to the detriment of those of Iran.

Expressing a sincere desire for peace, President Saddam Husayn on 6 August 1988 declared Iraq's preparedness to accept a ceasefire provided Iran expressed unambiguously and officially its acceptance to enter into direct negotiations following the ceasefire in order to discuss, agree on, and implement the Security Council resolution. Following this historic announcement, intensive contacts were conducted with Your Excellency and agreement was reached on 18 August 1988 about an announcement on the date for a ceasefire. Agreement was also reached on the date, the bases, and aims of the direct negotiations under UN auspices. You sent to the two countries' permament representatives a letter on the date mentioned which I quote in full given its importance to subsequent events. The letter says:

Your Excellency: Following the contacts I have held with Iraq and Iran, I would like to inform you that the two governments have agreed that their two foreign ministers will hold direct talks under my auspices immediately after the establishment of the cease-fire in order to reach a joint understanding of the other provisions of Security Council Resolution No 598 as well as the special measures and timetables of its implementation.

It is clear from this series of events that an agreement was reached between the two sides through the UN secretary general to set a date for a cease-fire before completing the agreement on all the provisions pertaining to it. The cease-fire became effective on 20 August and the UN observers took up their positions before the detailed provisions and legal obligations pertaining to the cease-fire were decided in agreement between the two sides on the one hand and the UN General Secretariat on the other—an agreement which is necessary for the cease-fire to last. It was natural for the Geneva negotiations to begin with discussion of this important issue of the cease-fire in accordance with a UN-sponsored clear-cut and specific agreement between the two sides. The negotiations will then focus on other provisions of Resolution No 598 of 1987.

When direct negotiations began in Geneva on 25 August, 1988, Iraq demanded during the first session that the provisions and arrangements of the cease-fire be clear to prevent any conflicting interpretations when these provisions and arrangements are implemented in the future and to make the cease-fire a permanent and sure step toward comprehensive and lasting peace. Iraq also demanded that the aforementioned provisions and obligations produce equal benefits for the two sides when implemented on land, in the air, and at sea in order to guarantee a permanent cease-fire.

Within this context and proceeding from these general principles and the final ends of Resolution No 598 represented in reaching a peaceful, comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement of the dispute, Iraq demanded two basic issues within the framework of the provisions and obligations of the cease-fire: The first issue stresses the need to clearly stipulate the freedom of navigation in international waters of the Arabian Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz for all ships without any hindrance.

We based this position on the Security Council resolution, which necessitates a cease-fire and an end to all military actions on land, at sea, and in the air as a first step toward a negotiated settlement. We also adhere to the principle of balanced benefits. If there are detailed and balanced benefits in the cease-fire provisions and obligations on land and in the air for the two sides, there should not be any imbalance in such benefits at sea that will give Iran an additional advantage as a result of its geographical location in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz at the expense of Iraq.

The second issue is assigning the United Nations the task of clearing Shatt al-'Arab and making it fit for navigation without affecting the legal status of the river, which can be discussed in a later stage of the negotiations. Through this proposal, we considered the fact that Shatt al-'Arab is Iraq's main outlet to international seas and that the removal of the obstacles to navigation, which accumulated over the long years of the war, takes a long time and requires international expertise and expenses. Since negotiations aimed at bringing about a lasting and comprehensive peace and solving all pending issues between the two sides may take a long time, it is logical to use this time to make Shatt al-'Arab fit for navigation. This will fulfill the principle of balance between Iraq and Iran in taking advantage of the cease-fire at sea.

It is fully regrettable that the Iranian side has not dealt with these two logical and legitimate demands, which boost the cease-fire and in a way entail a serious desire for peace. It used the tactics of prevarication and evasion of commitment to any legal or logical rule in handling issues of discussion in the negotiations. It insisted on a selective policy in which it highlights what it pleases without committing itself to the resulting obligations.

Regarding freedom of navigation in international waters in the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the Iranian delegation unjustifiably claimed the right to control free navigation through claiming the right of inspection according to interpretations that do not conform at all with the provisions of international law concerning the system of collective security—which the UN charter consecrates—and contradict the letter and spirit of Resolution No 598 and its aim to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace. It was clear that the Iranian interpretation of the cease-fire was based on the concepts of truce which preceded the establishment of the United Nations and its charter. It did not consider the cease-fire a first step toward a settlement, as provided for in the first paragraph of the resolution.

The Iranian delegation followed this stand by insisting on texts that, in effect, impose an arms embargo against Iraq at sea. It began to promote falsehoods that Iraq is demanding free navigation in Iranian territorial waters, while Iraq's demand was clear—namely, free navigation at the international waters through the Strait of Hormuz.

As for clearing Shatt al-'Arab, the Iranian delegation rejected Iraq's reasonable and logical proposal. It also sought to link the clearing process openly to the imposition of preconditions on Iraq—namely, the recognition of the 1975 treaty, which no longer exists after Iran had violated it in words and actions since 1979. This issue has absolutely nothing to do with clearing as a technical measure of the cease-fire in accordance with which the practice of free navigation at sea is completed by the two countries. Moreover, the Iranian delegation claimed that Iraq's two aforementioned proposals represent two western demands.

Iraq's demand that freedom of navigation and clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway be part of the cease-fire arrangements is not a new or different demand regarding the text and spirit of Resolution 598. Nay, they are two basic factors lying at the core of the cease-fire process—an initial step toward the negotiated settlement, as stipulated in the first paragraph of the resolution.

Iraq previously affirmed these two issues many times since it accepted Resolution 598. We demanded this in the letter of our acceptance of Resolution 598 on 22 July, 1987. We also affirmed this demand in Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's letter of 6 August, 1988—the starting point of the cease-fire agreement. We also affirmed this in two letters to the secretary general. The first was on 20 July 1988, after Iran accepted the resolution, and the second was on 11 August, 1988, after the cease-fire date was set and before the Geneva negotiations.

On the other hand, the secretary general's plan on the implementation of Resolution 598, which he presented to both sides on 15 October, 1987 and which the Iranian delegation considers as one of the basic pillars of the negotiations framework, clearly stipulates the issues of freedom of navigation and clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway within the provisions of the cease-fire at sea.

The first round of negotiations in Geneva ended in failure to reach an agreement on determining the provisions of the cease-fire and the mutual commitments of the two parties based on this cease-fire due to the stubborn and illogical Iranian stand.

On 1 October, 1988, a meeting was held between the two delegations in New York, in which the secretary general presented a collection of ideas dealing with implementing a number of the provisions of Resolution 598. It was decided then that negotiations would resume in Geneva to study these ideas and others which contribute toward realizing a settlement.

When the second round of talks started in Geneva, we proved, with great responsibility and concern over making the negotiations successful, that it is necessary to agree on a set policy to implement Resolution 598 which would guarantee equality and balance to realize the final aspirations. We proposed that it should either be based on sequential implementation, which was our original stand, or package implementation, if the Iranian delegation wished it to be so.

If it is implemented on a sequential basis, we should first agree on all the special arrangements concerning the cease-fire, including freedom of navigation and clearing the Shatt al-'Arab waterway. Then, we could move on to discussing the other provisions of Resolution 598. If it is implemented on the package basis, then the deal has to be comprehensive. That is, it includes the other provisions of the resolution and not certain paragraphs of it, after agreeing on the requirements of stabilizing the cease-fire.

We also indicated that some of the basic conditions of the package deal are that it be balanced in the elements of one paragraph on the one hand and also in the relationship of the various paragraphs to each other on the other hand.

Regrettably, the Iranian delegation once again used the same methods it used in the first round. It was crystal clear that it was not ready to abide by the 8 August 1988 agreement on the one side, and a fixed method to implement the resolution on the other. The Iranian delegation began to set priorities for the implementation of the resolution in a manner to which neither the method of sequential implementation nor that of a comprehensive package applied. It again resorted to its known selective trend of adopting a certain method toward a certain issue and another method toward another issue in a manner that benefits it without committing itself to a unified logic or method in implementing the resolution.

It calls for an immediate withdrawal on the pretext that cease-fire was reached at a time when it refused to reach agreement on completing its measures and provisions. On the other hand, it says that the active operations have not ended yet with the aim of evading the exchange of prisoners of war, which is binding to it in accordance with Paragraph 3 of the resolution and Article 118 of the Third Geneva Convention. It also sought to illogically link the subject of free navigation and clearing Shatt al-'Arab with other points of the resolution. Thus, we spent several days in this round of talks trying in vain to reach with the Iranian side a clear basis or a specific method to implement the provisions of Resolution 598 in a manner that achieves balance and equality and that leads to a durable and comprehensive peace.

The Iranian side insisted on the selective method, on jumping from one subject to another, and on noncommitment to any of the bases of international law. Its stand on the subject of the exchange of prisoners of war, which we will explain here, is cogent proof of this strange, insincere, and unserious method in implementing the resolution.

Before the resumption of the second round of talks in Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] sent a memorandum to the two countries' foreign minstries on 4 October 1988, calling on them to immediately embark on an exchange of prisoners of war pursuant to Article 118 of the 1949 Geneva Convention on prisoners of war, which stipulates the release and quick repatriation of prisoners at the termination of actual hostilities, because such hostilities ended on 20 August 1988 when the cease-fire was observed by the two sides. The ICRC asked the two sides to discuss implementation of this commitment in their two countries on the basis of the letter of principles and practical measures related to the subject, which was submitted to them by the ICRC on 23 August 1988.

Iraq consented to the ICRC's proposal in a letter I sent on 17 November 1988. The Iranian side had not replied to the ICRC's memorandum by the time the second round of Geneva talks was held from 31 October to 11 November 1988. During the second round of negotiations, the Iranian side strangely insisted on an interpretation of the meaning of the cessation of active hostilities, stating that these had not ceased yet as long as the issue of withdrawal had not been settled. Therefore, it refused to embark on the exchange of prisoners after the cease-fire as cited in Paragraph 3 on the need to exchange prisoners without delay at the termination of active hostilities, and in accordance with what the ICRC proposed to the two sides on 4 November.

During the official session of talks and in front of the secretary general and his personal representative we proposed that we seek the ICRC's interpretation of the Third Geneva Convention and its Article 118, as it is the competent quarter, and that we act according to its verdict. The Iranian side rejected this and insisted on not releasing the prisoners. However, out of Iraq's desire to facilitate matters, we agreed to the ICRC's proposal to begin releasing the sick and wounded prisoners who are confirmed by it on the basis of the principle of reciprocity and proportionality. Their number is 1,158 Iraqi prisoners versus 411 Iranian prisoners.

The agreement also stipulated that the prisoner exchange be completed in 10 days as of 22 November 1988. The international committee fixed the daily batches at 115 Iraqi POW's per day against 41 Iranian POW's. When implementation of this agreement was embarked upon, Iranian authorities resorted to a clear act of deception. They did so by cutting the true numbers that had been agreed upon for each batch of wounded and sick prisoners. They also fabricated illegitimate reasons for doing this.

On 24, 26, and 27 November 1988, Iran handed over 3 batches of 52, 51, and 52 prisoners respectively and the international committee conveyed to us that the Iranian side had given the following strange explanations for their failure to hand over the rest of the numbers about which agreement had been reached.

Following are the explanations advanced by the Iranian side: 20 prisoners have refused to return; 61 prisoners have recovered; a decision on the fate of 30 prisoners is pending; 68 prisoners had been released by Iranian authorities without the knowledge of the Red Cross and have not been handed over to us; the identity of 2 prisoners has not been determined; 8 prisoners have not returned from camp; 2 prisoners have died; and a decision is pending on the fate of 1 Egyptian prisoner.

These Iranian figures and pretexts show that the Iranian authorities' deceptive behavior was meant to breach the agreement reached according to proposals made by the ICRC on the need to hand over all the registered sick and wounded. The pretexts submitted by Iranian authorities are not substantiated by the ICRC which has not presented any documents to support Iranian claims. Obviously, documentation concerning the fate of the prisoners is of vital importance for legal and humanitarian considerations as well as to meet Islamic Shari'a that should be implemented in such cases.

Given this failure to work out a common understanding with the Iranian side on the approach to implementing the resolution, we emphasized during the talks that the 8 August 1988 agreement that the two sides had reached through the UN secretary general must be respected in the negotiations on implementing Resolution 598 as a peace plan.

We had also emphasized this last point, meaning that Resolution 598 is a peace plan, while the Iranian regime acted during the two rounds of negotiations that were held in Geneva and the New York meeting of 1 October as if Resolution 598 was an arena for political conflict where the Iranian regime fought a political war after

having failed on the military battlefield. Despite this failure, we encouraged the initiatives undertaken by your representative Mr Jan Eliasson in the last days of the second round of the Geneva negotiations in order to create a positive climate to favor pursuing the negotiations in a construcitve fashion and we agreed to all of his suggesions in this regard.

So the second round of the Geneva talks were concluded without tangible progress being made. We would have hoped for the negotiations to resume after a reasonable period of meditation.

However, the Iranian side returned to Tehran to issue a series of statements full of slander and threats to resume aggression and use force to resolve the outstanding issues in the negotiations. Examples of these statements were mentioned in my letter to the UN secretary general dated 11 December 1988. The Iranian foreign minister sent two letters to the UN secretary general dated 15 and 29 December 1988 emphasizing the same Iranian stands.

This enhanced our impression that the Iranian Government is still not prepared to behave on the basis that Resolution 598/1987 is a peace plan and should be implemented through joint understanding under the UN secretary general's auspices according to international law, working within the method of resolving disputes among states in the modern age and on the basis of the 8 August 1988 agreement. It is clear that the Iranian Government is behaving as if it were waging the war by new means in place of the previous methods, which it was compelled to abandon due to the defeats sustained by its Armed Forces and the pressure exerted by international and Iranian public opinion after its losing, aggressive, and expansionist policy was exposed.

I replied to the two Iranian letters in a letter dated 5 January 1989 so I could once again explain the Iranian falsehoods and unfounded allegations. Nevertheless, the Iranian course was maintained. The Iranian foreign minister sent another message to the UN secretary general dated 23 January 1989—the day when Jan Eliasson, the UN secretary general's personal envoy, arrived in Tehran as part of his tour of the two countries to promote peace negotiations—in a clear effort by the Iranian foreign minister to divert attention from the central points that should be agreed upon to achieve the basic objective of that tour.

It is noteworthy this time that the Iranian minister was not content with reiterating the previous falsehoods and slanders of his government but authorized himself to speak on behalf of the UN secretary general by claiming that his government, prior to accepting direct negotiations, had received guarantees that these negotiations will be held to implement Paragraph 4 of Resolution 598/1987 and that, apart from this, the negotiations will be confined to setting dates to implement the other paragraphs.

What is even stranger than all this is the fact that the Iranian foreign minister frankly exempted the cease-fire provisions from the framework of negotiations, which confirms the selective method of the Iranian Government as well as its failure to believe in the concept of the peace plan. This concept embodies the letter and spirit of this resolution and represents the only sound framework to implement it in a way that will realize balanced benefits in the interests of the two parties to attain a comprehensive, lasting, and peaceful settlement of the conflict.

An objective evaluation of the process of peace negotiations and the stands of the two parties, such as we have already presented, leads to a host of conclusions. First and foremost, it is crystal clear that the Iranian stand on Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 598/1987 and international law, is selective. This stand emphasizes the part that benefits the Iranian side and evades the part that entails commitments.

On the contrary, Iraq's stand, throughout the conflict and also before and after the issuance of Resolution 598, has stressed the need to abide by the Security Council resolutions, including this one, and by international law in an overall, interlinked, and balanced manner. This fact must be fully known by the Security Council. It is enough for anyone who doubts this fact to examine the Iranian stands and compare those taken before and after the issuance of Resolution 598/1987 with the ones adopted since Iran accepted the resolution.

It is also crystal clear that Resolution 598 is not merely a plan for measures and timetables. Rather, it is a "peace plan", as described by the secretary general in many occassions and as everybody understands it. The Iraqi government shares this view with the secretary general, and believes that the resolution, so considered, must be implemented through joint understanding of its provisions, to be reached through negotiations between the two sides under the auspices of and with assistance from the secretary general. The aim is to achieve lasting and comprehensive peace on the bases of the accredited principles and rules that govern international relations in accordance with the UN charter and international law.

Focusing on a single point of the provisions of Resolution 598, as the Iranian Government is doing without clarifying its stand on the other provisions, cannot be a real start that guarantees a permanent, balanced, and comprehensive peace. This stand, indeed, arouses much suspicion about the seriousness of the Iranian side in meeting its obligations in accordance with the resolution. The real guarantee for honest implementation of Resolution 598, therefore, is to work without hesitation or prevarication toward consolidating and stabilizing the cease-fire through agreement on its provisions and reciprocal obligations according to it and then reaching joint

understanding on the rest of its provisions with a view of implementing them in a way that brings about peace as provided for in the 8 August 1988 agreement.

Out of our desire to consolidate the peace process, we, during the visit of your representative Jan Eliasson, agreed to his proposal on the formation of the mixed military commission to tackle problems that might arise from the implementation of the cease-fire, and the lifting of a ban on aerial navigation heading for Iran. In addition, we had earlier released 255 Iranian POW's unilaterally and through an initiative that was not preceded by discussion or negotiation.

At the end, I would like to stress to you that the Iraqi Government highly appreciates the efforts that you and your personal representative Jan Eliasson are exerting in patronizing the negotiations, and your strenuous endeavor to achieve progress in these negotiations. The Iraqi Government also stresses that it will do its best to cooperate with you in a constructive way to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran. We are of the view that continuing the negotiations on the basis of the 8 August 1988 agreement is the only way for success. We would like also to stress that Iraq categorically rejects any preconditions by the Iranian side for the resumption of the negotiations.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the Iraqi Government is ready to accept the call for the resumption of the direct negotiations at any date you fix. With my full respect.

[No signature as received]

Pan Am Bomb Reportedly Concealed in Recorder

TA0702074989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Excerpts] London—The bomb that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December, killing 270 people, was concealed in a radio-cassette recorder in a bag transferred onto the flight at Frankfurt Airport, according to information received by THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday.

It is understood that crash investigators here have established that the explosive device was similiar, but not identical, to a device found in the possession of members of Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, who were arrested in Germany a few weeks before the bombing.

While investigators have yet to identify the bag in which the radio-cassette recorder was hidden, it is understood that they are certain that it was transferred from another plane onto the Boeing 727 that covered the Frankfurt-to-London (Heathrow) leg of Flight 103. At Heathrow, baggage from the 727 was loaded onto the ill-fated Boeing 747 for the journey to New York. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Ari'el Sharon yesterday accused Palestinian terrorist leader Ahmad Jibril of responsibility for the bomb blast which downed the Pan Am jumbo.

"Israel believes it was Ahmad Jibril," Sharon told a news conference in Madrid.

Sharon gave no other details and declined to say why Israel believed Jibril's PFLP-general command was behind the Pan Am crash.

The accusation was the first time Israel has publicly pinpointed an Arab group.

'Offensive' Launched To End U.S.-PLO Dialogue

TA0702074589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday launched a coordinated diplomatic and public relations offensive to persuade the Bush administration and the U.S. public that Sunday's foiled terrorist attack in Lebanon should put an end to the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Ambassador Moshe Arad has been instructed to press Israel's case at all levels of the administration. Sources here said last night that proof of the terrorists' intention to infiltrate into Israel and to carry out a terrorist attack here was recovered from the bodies of the five terrorists, and that this proof will be submitted to administration officials. The evidence reportedly includes maps, written leaflets and other material.

Elated by yesterday's official PLO admission of responsibility for the mission of the combined PFLP-FLP squad, officials in Jerusalem have instructed the embassy in Washington and consulates in the U.S. to enlist the help of Jewish organizations and pro-Israeli lobbyists in mounting the campaign.

The Israeli message will try to convince officials, Congressmen and the public at large that Yasir 'Arafat has no intention of renouncing terror, and that even if he did, the realities of the PLO's internal politics have since caused him to renege on his commitment.

"The conditions as they were set forth by the State Department have been clearly and unequivocally violated," Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday in a speech in Jerusalem before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"I presume that in Washington they also noticed what happened, but in case somebody there may not have noticed, we will draw his attention to it," Arens said. The foreign minister was also expected last night to raise the matter with U.S. Ambassador William Brown at a reception for the Conference hosted by Brown.

Israeli officials said the statements of PLO spokesmen in Tunis and London, which accepted responsibility for the attack, made Israel's job much easier. While Israel and the U.S. had bickered at the time over the inclusion of the intifadah [uprising] in the U.S. definition of terrorism, they added, there had been no disagreements that attacks from Lebanon constituted terrorism.

The officials added that the PLO statements also meant that Israel now did not have to persuade the administration that 'Arafat should be held responsible for the actions of George Habash's PFLP.

Nonetheless, well-placed officials here said that the administration should not be expected to change its policy towards the PLO at this time. Without a successful terrorist operation, the sources noted wryly, it would be difficult to galvanize U.S. public opinion against the American dialogue with the PLO.

"But this is definitely a significant chink in the PLO armour of moderation," one official said.

Arens said the terrorists were armed with Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, knives and wire cutters, and that they were on their way to attack civilians. Arens noted that the planned attack had been foiled, adding that "perhaps the world will believe we have a case only after women and children are killed."

Arens said Israelis were "shocked to see the world leaders lining up to pay homage to Yasir 'Arafat." The list of PLO atrocities over the last 25 years was so long that Western leaders could not have forgotten it, Arens said, but still, "people now want to be photographed shaking that man's hand."

Rabin on PLO 'Threats'

TA0602184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the U.S. State Department should make it clear that threats against Palestinians in the territories who propose an end to the violence amounts to terror.

Speaking to a visiting mission of the Presidents' Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations, the defense minister said that PLO terror has prevented a local leadership emerging in the territories willing to negotiate with Israel. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The defense minister said that the struggle in the territories was not against a leadership corps, but was a confrontation against the bulk of the population. Rabin said that for the first time since 1948, Palestinians in the territories are leading the struggle for the Palestinian cause. The defense minister said he was convinced that many of them are now ready for a solution, and without PLO terror a local leadership would have emerged in the territories willing to negotiate with Israel.

Rabin said the U.S. State Department must tell the PLO that the threats against Palestinians proposing an end to the violence amounts to terror.

[Rabin] For the Palestinians in the territories it's a great risk, because of the terror of 'Arafat, to say what they think, to do what they want. This is where the United States Government has to address itself in dealing with the dialogue with the PLO about terror. Here is the worst terror, the terror that keeps them quiet, that prevents them to say or to do what they want. It's more important than an attempt to infiltrate from Lebanon.

[Weiss] Turning to his recent peace initiative, Rabin said his proposals were based on the principles of the Camp David accords with more modifications. Instead of talks with Egypt and Jordan, direct talks with the residents of the territories on autonomy were now being offered. The defense minister said that the uprising was a test of wills for both sides, but Israel was stronger. [end recording]

Rabin Reiterates Plan, Considers Concessions

TA0602160089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Report by 'Amos Har'el]

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated to members of the Teachers' Union the main points of the political plan he first presented several weeks ago. As somebody who for years has believed in territorial compromise, Rabin said, I am prepared to consider concessions as part of a peace settlement. Giving in to violence, however, is a grave mistake. Yitzhaq Rabin said: I oppose making significant changes as a result of violence. Giving in to Palestinian violence will invite further measures by them. The solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will come only through negotiations with the inhabitants, Rabin believes.

[Begin Rabin recording] Do you want to solve the conflict? There is only one way: in face-to-face negotiations around the table. If you do not want that and believe that you will get what you want through violence—that you will pressure us, that you will frighten us off—then forget about it. If we face violence and a lack of willingness to solve the problem through negotiations, we will use force. [end recording]

The minister said: My obvious solution is: no surrender, no withdrawal, no running away. There is a need to face the issue in its entirety, to provide an answer that will include a political concept with a military approach.

Referring to the intifadah [uprising], he said it will not be overcome in a single day.

[Begin Rabin recording] To those who promised to end it within 1 or 2 weeks, I say, we have already seen how terrorism in Lebanon was uprooted once and for all. Nothing happened there. We did not uproot terrorism. We were in Lebanon for 3 years, but 3 and ½ years later it is still operating and is effective against us. There is no war to end all wars in the Israeli-Arab conflict. There is no single war that can uproot terrorism in one blow. Only false messiahs have such solutions. [end recording]

Tabah Talks Reportedly Close to Completion

TA0702113789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Feb 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Talks in Tabah on future access to the area for Israelis and foreign tourists appeared last night to be close to successful completion, sources in Jerusalem said.

The head of the Israeli team at Tabah, Foreign Ministry Assistant Director-General Yitzaq Lior, estimated that following today's scheduled session and a possible additional meeting next week, the two sides would be able to conclude the agreement.

Once Tabah is returned to Egypt, visitors will be allowed to enter the area without a visa, although they will have to show their passports.

Yesterday's talks also ironed out differences on customs and currency-exchange regulations in Tabah after Israel withdraws.

In Cairo yesterday, Israeli and Egyptian officials worked out the schedule and agenda for talks on the future ownership and management of the Sonesta Hotel. [passage omitted]

Shomron Visits U.S. for Talks on Arms Purchases

TA0602120489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron left late last night for an official 12-day visit to the U.S., during which he will discuss American-Israeli military cooperation and possible future Israeli arms purchases with top Pentagon and U.S. Army officials.

Rav Aluf [Lieutenant General] Shomron, who will be the guest of Admiral William Crowe, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be paying a return visit following Crowe's trip to Israel over a year ago.

An official IDF statement released last night said Shomron's visit is part of the "ongoing close relations between the IDF and the U.S. armed forces."

Shomron's trip comes against a backdrop of budgetary limitations which have prevented the IDF from purchasing all of the weapons systems it feels it needs.

Observers say Shomron may try to overcome the frozen levels of U.S. military aid and domestic funding of the defence budget by seeking special long-term financing for some purchases.

Starting today Shomron will spend three days in Washington where he will meet with heads of the various branches of the U.S military to discuss ways to increase cooperation between the IDF and the U.S. armed forces.

During the remainder of his trip, Shomron will visit various military installations and military industries. He is also scheduled to meet with Jewish leaders and prominent members of the U.S. media.

The visit is Shomron's first to the U.S. as chief of general staff.

Netanyahu: USSR Seeks Dialogue on Terrorism

TA0602121889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The Soviet Union is interested in discussing problems of airborne terror with Israel. This is according to Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, addressing the conference on airline security being held in Tel Aviv. Netanyahu welcomed the prospects of such talks, but had reservations about their framework.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] We can do this on a bilateral basis, or we can do this in a multinational gathering. I say multinational gathering, but you notice that I did not suggest a UN forum. The reason is very simple: A UN forum, an open-ended forum, would include many of the countries that plan, organize, fund, and perpetrate the attacks of international terrorism.

So, a conference that would have countries like Libya, Syria, or, presumably now, the upgraded representatives of the PLO would be vitiated of any meaning. But a conference that would be limited to those countries that have been the targets of terrorism, and seek to do something about it—I think that has a great deal of importance today. [end recording]

Polish Parliament Delegation To Visit in Spring

TA0602123289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Noah Klieger]

[Text] For the first time since the establishment of the state, an official delegation of the Polish parliament will visit Israel, while a delegation of Knesset members will visit Poland.

Mieczyslaw Rakowski, chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, disclosed this decision to Stefan Grajek, chairman of the World Federation of Polish Jews, in a meeting he held over the weekend.

The delegation of the Sejm, the Polish parliament, will come to Israel in the spring.

Commercial, Tourism Contacts With PRC Developing

TA0702105689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Yitzhaq Minervi, the Foreign Ministry assistant director general of economic affairs, secretly visited the PRC with regard to economic agreements between Israel and the PRC. This was the second visit by Minervi, who is also the chairman of the the Copco Company, which has been in charge of commercial ties with the PRC over the past few months.

Israel and the PRC are also holding various contacts on coal purchases by Israel in return for exports of its goods to the PRC.

The PRC Tourism Ministry director general will soon visit Israel as a guest of the Geographic Society travel agency. The PRC Government has no tourism minister; the director general, therefore, is the highest ranking PRC official in this sphere. The guest will hold talks on

promoting Israeli tourism to China. Over the past few months, the PRC has been issuing group entry visas freely and is benefiting from a growing number of visiting Israelis.

Contacts between the Israel Academy of Science and Humanities and academic elements in the PRC on establishing a permanent Israeli academic liaison in Beijing are continuing.

Arens To Confer With Howe, Thatcher in London

TA0302111689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will visit London in 2 weeks at the invitation of his counterpart Geoffrey Howe. Our political correspondent points out that in the course of his visit, Minister Arens will confer with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The differences of opinion over the political process in the Middle East and bilateral relations will be discussed during Minister Arens' visit.

FRG Parliamentarian Confers With Rabin

TA0402054989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] The deputy chairman of the West German Bundestag, Anne Marie Renger, currently on a visit here, says Israel could not exist without world support, and Jerusalem must accept Palestinian right to self-determination.

Speaking at the Labor Party College Bet Berl, Renger said: Israel must recognize the fact that the PLO represents Palestinians in the territories.

Defense Minister Rabin met with Renger yesterday, and they discussed events in the territories.

UN Protests Expulsions from South Lebanon

TA0702055089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 7 Feb 89

[Text] The United Nations has protested to Israel over recent incidents in the security zone in south Lebanon, including the expulsion of a number of Lebanese. A UN spokesman said Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding met Israeli UN representatives on these issues and said that UNIFIL does not accept the theory that the IDF is not responsible for the actions of the South Lebanese Army.

Al-Husayni on Conceptions of Palestinian State

TA0602132889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Text] "Do not think that Faysal al-Husayni or anybody else can provide you with an alternative leadership to the PLO. We will give you 100 Nelson Mandelas, but not even one quisling. If you want negotiations, you should go to the PLO at once. If you want to know why you should go to the PLO, I can tell you." These remarks were made yesterday by Faysal al-Husayni in a meeting with hundreds of activists of the protest movements Down With the Occupation and The 21st Year, which was held in the Kol Haneshama reform synagogue in Jerusalem's Baq'a neighborhood. This synagogue regularly hosts protest movements and has in the past offered political asylum to Mubarak Awad.

With the Torah ark and the Star of David behind him, Al-Husayni stood for 2 hours replying, in Hebrew spiced with a great deal of humor, to questions by an audience that was ostensibly sympathetic, regaling him with applause and even with a bouquet of flowers at the end of the meeting.

Most questions were about the type of solution he proposes and the nature of the Palestinian state to be established.

Referring to the right of return, Al-Husayni said "This right should not be fulfilled at the expense of Israel's security. If I tell you that I have a historical right, you will tell my side that you claim to have a historical right, and we will have accomplished nothing. We love the places we were forced to forsake, but the right of return is not the right to go back to residing in these places. Right of return, yes—but how to fulfill this right, that must be discussed." Among other solutions, Al-Husayni mentioned monetary remuneration, but noted that "first of all, we must do away with the fears and big dreams of both sides."

Replying to a question as to what would be the status of Jerusalem when the Palestinian state is established, Al-Husayni said the solution is "two capitals in one city," maybe on the basis of an umbrella municipality. Describing the optimal situation he envisions for the region in the future, Al-Husayni said there is no room for small countries, either economically or politically, in the 21st century. That is the basis on which the EEC was established; based on this model, he foresees an economic solution first and, perhaps later, also a political solution, which in any event would have to include a Palestinian state.

Replying to a question about the future of the settlements, Al-Husayni said that these were initially set up by the Alignment to guarantee security and later by the Likud to block a Palestinian state. Both these concepts will have no place when the Palestinian state is established amid peace (unlike the peace amid war, the plan drawn up by former generals and trumpeted by the Alignment in its election campaign); consequently, there would be no room for settlements. Later, during a stage of open borders (not right from the beginning), Israelis would also be able to buy houses in the Palestinian state based on economic interests.

Survey Shows Majority Against Palestinian State

TA0702060889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 7 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says a new survey shows that 80 percent of Jews in Israel oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state. He told Likud activists in Beersheba that the survey was carried out by Prof Elihu Katz of the Institute for Applied Social Research. Its findings discredit the views that there is a majority in Israel supporting the idea of a Palestinian state.

[Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 7 February in a report by Steve Leibowitz on page 2 adds that "the poll, conducted among 1,192 adults last month, also found 79 percent believing that such a PLO state would 'be a danger to Israel's existence'."]

Nusaybah: Rabin Elections Proposal 'Pointless'

TA0602114589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Dr. Sari Nusaybah, one of the prominent pro-PLO public figures in the territories, yesterday dismissed Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "a pointless exercise."

Nusaybah, a philosophy professor at Bi'ir Zayt University, said the recent political proposals by Rabin and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir were fragmentary and "not anything that is coherent or comprehensive."

Speaking to reporters after addressing a visiting delegation of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, Nusaybah said that if Israel was looking for persons who could represent local Palestinians, they could be found among those deported or imprisoned during the uprising, and negotiators would in any event have to be appointed by the PLO. "There is no need to have elections," he said. "It would be a pointless exercise."

Elections could only be held after an Israeli withdrawal from the territories, perhaps as part of the preparations for establishing a Palestinian state, Nusaybah said.

He rejected suggestions that the balloting could serve as a device to bring Israel to talks with the PLO. "I don't believe Mr. Shamir needs or seeks a device," Nusaybah said. "He is seeking a diversion. Elections would not be a confidence-building measure, but a suspicion-building measure."

Faysal al-Husayni who is more prominent than Nusaybah in his PLO affiliations, has said elections could serve as a "ladder" to bring Israel to talks with the PLO, with the winners being appointed by the PLO to its delegation.

Nusaybah said the highly publicized meetings between Defence Ministry officials and local Palestinian leaders were nothing new, but were rather part of a long-standing strategy to find local partners for discussions focusing on proposals for autonomy. Such meetings are bound to be fruitless, he added, since the local Palestinians are not authorized to make commitments, and the Israelis have nothing to offer.

The only realistic solution, according to Nusaybah, is for Israel "to accept the Palestinian peace challenge," and state in advance that it would be prepared to withdraw from the territories as part of a peace settlement. Only such a commitment could bring an end to the intifadah [uprising], he said.

Nusaybah added that a positive aspect of Rabin's statements was his apparent readiness to consider an ultimate confederation between the territories and Jordan. This goes beyond the interim autonomy period envisioned in the Camp David agreements, which leave open the question of the final disposition of the territories, he said. Rabin also seemed prepared to allow the Palestinians themselves to decide the future of the territories, as opposed to the Camp David accords, which provide only for Palestinian participation in determining the areas' final status, Nusaybah said.

Former Refuseniks Demonstrate for Pollards

TA0602195489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpt] There was a demonstration today opposite the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem in support of the release of Anne and Jonathan Pollard, who are serving prison terms in the United States after being convicted of espionage. The demonstrators were members and supporters of the Soviet Prisoners of Zion organization. Representatives of the demonstrators will meet with the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem on Thursday to send through him a written message to President Bush.

The demonstrators claim that Anne and Jonathan Pollard did not harm U.S. security, but wanted to aid Israel. Anne Pollard is in solitary confinement and her health is deteriorating. Jonathan Pollard is also in solitary confinement.

Prominent among the demonstrators were former Prisoners of Zion Ida Nudel, Yosef Begun, and Hilel Butman. [passage omitted]

Strassnoff: IDF Operating Within Law

TA0702120589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The army Advocate General, Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, says Israel is observing the human rights of the Palestinians in the territories according to

the law. Gen Strassnoff was speaking at a news conference on the eve of tomorrow's release of the U.S. State Department report said to condemn Israel's activities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Shlomo Berger reports:

Gen Amnon Strassnoff says Israel is trying to keep basic human rights in the territories in the face of violent provocations by local residents.

[Begin Strassnoff recording] I think that we have, to a large extent, succeeded to keep balance, a delicate balance, between the necessities of security on the one hand, and the rights of the individuals on the other. We keep, for example, the trials with due process of law; administrative detentions are also based and grounded in the law. There is a right of appeal and a right to apply to the Supreme Court of the State of Israel sitting as a High Court of Justice; a right that is unprecedented in international law of occupation. I think that they have remedy that they can ask for, and, as I mentioned, we try hard to keep this delicate balance. [end recording]

Strassnoff also said the implementation of speedy trials for stonethrowers and inciters has been effective.

He said that since the beginning of the uprising 8,000 indictments have been presented to the military courts; 4,500 cases have been completed, of which there were 4,300 convictions. There are 3,000 people now awaiting trial. Of the 4,500 residents who have been held in administrative detention since the beginning of the uprising, 1,100 are still in jail.

Rabin Provides Statistics

TA0602202589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Over 80,000 soldiers have served in the territories since the start of the uprising, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told members of the Teachers Union. Despite extensive army reserve duty this year, reporting for service was excellent, Rabin said. He said that 360 Palestinians have been killed during the uprising, over 7,000 have been wounded, 27,000 were detained, and charges have been filed against 4,000. He stressed that fast trials of stone throwers have resulted in a large increase in those captured.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Stonethrower Given 4 Years

TA0602122689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Feb 89 p A9

[Report by Ehud Rabinowitz]

[Text] A 16-year-old boy from Qalqilyah convicted of throwing stones at buses was sentenced yesterday by the military court in Nabulus to 4 years imprisonment, of which he will serve 1 and ½ years in jail. This is one of the stiffest sentences ever meted out for stone throwing. The incident took place in July 1988. IDF soldiers caught the boy following a brief chase. During the trial, the boy pleaded not guilty to the charges against him. In its sentence, the court stated that it had not thrown the book at the boy because of his young age and because he had no previous record.

2 Policemen Wounded

TA0602122889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] In East Jerusalem's Salah al-Din Street a short time ago, a group of Arab youths tried to burn tires and block the road. Two policeman were hurt. Over to Shlomo Berger:

Shortly before noon today, a group of youths gathered on Salah al-Din Street, the main commercial street in East Jerusalem. The youths begun burning tires and throwing stones and smashed the windows of several cars belonging to both Arabs and Jews. About 5 minutes later, the police arrived at the scene, and the demonstrators begun throwing rocks at them.

The police used tear gas, rubber bullets, and water cannon, and dispersed the group within minutes. The force of the water cannon broke several shop windows in the area. Salah al-Din was closed to traffic, but has now been reopened. There is broken glass debris and green water from the water cannon all over the place where the demonstration took place. Salah al-Din is quiet now, and police are patrolling the street. It is not yet clear whether any arrests were made.

3 Hurt in Clashes With IDF

TA0602162789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Three residents of Gaza, Tulkarm, and Janin were wounded in clashes with IDF soldiers today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a general strike was staged in Gaza today to protest the death of residents in demonstrations over the past few days.

Curfews remain in effect in the Jabalyah, Al-Shati', and Khan Yunus refugee camps. A curfew on the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm has been in effect for more than a week now.

Revenues From Taxes Drop 6 Percent in January

TA0602123089 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Feb 89 p B2

[Report by Yosi Groenstein]

[Excerpt] State revenues from taxes totaled 2.3 billion shekels in January 1989, a drop of 6 percent in real terms compared with January 1988. Some 20.2 billion shekels have been collected since the beginning of the fiscal year in April 1988, similar in real terms to the amount collected during the same period last year. [passage omitted]

Al-Rifa'i Interviewed on Economy, Arab Issues

JN0602094589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Feb 89 p 10

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i by Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN—date, place not given]

[Text] Question: Where do you place the recent cabinet reshuffle in Jordan in terms of importance and what are its causes and objectives?

Answer: Cabinet reshuffles are generally part of the life of every government. Occasionally, His Majesty King Husayn finds it necessary to change the positions of some officials or introduce fresh blood to the government. Therefore, most of what has been published abroad about the reshuffle and its various interpretations is imaginary. The reshuffle was an ordinary move meant to change the positions of some officials, allow new colleagues to participate in bearing the responsibility, and give those who shouldered responsibility for a long time a rest and an opportunity to change positions. Therefore, what has been said about exclusions and motives is irrelevant.

Question: But can this recent reshuffle be considered preparation for a new stage?

Answer: Not at all. Praise be to God, Jordanian policy enjoys continuity and consistency. No cabinet reshuffle can be termed a preparation for a new stage or an end of an earlier stage.

Question: What is your view of the economic situation in Jordan in light of what has been said and published about it and its troubles?

Answer: Generally speaking, the economic situation in Jordan is good and suffers no problems. On the contrary, it achieved a 3 percent growth when the Middle East was suffering an economic slowdown which affected the entire world. Actually, the Jordanian economy is active and suffers no troubles. Its troubles are financial, not economic. They revolve around the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. It was decided at the 1979 Baghdad summit to allocate funds for supporting the confrontation states. It was agreed to provide annual aid for 10 years. $1.25 billion was allocated for Jordan. Regrettably, we in Jordan received the full annual aid for only 1 year although we had established the bases of our military, economic, and development steadfastness on the basis of this aid.

We made contracts for the purchase of weapons meeting our minimal needs as a state with the longest Arab border with Israel. We made contracts to complete the Kingdom's infrastructrure projects. We also initiated major industrial projects to provide sufficient income for the country. Of course, the obligations of contracts have to be met. Since then, the government has been eager not to increase its financial burdens so as to be able to meet these obligations from the allocations stipluated by the Baghdad summit for Jordan. Regrettably, these allocations were not received. With time, payments were due and their interest accumulated. We found that we had to service this foreign debt from our intrinsic resources. Of course, we received aid from Arab states like Kuwait, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia—the only Arab state to fulfil its obligations fully. However, the Arab aid we received is much less than what was allocated for us at the Baghdad summit. Had the Baghdad summit aid been received fully on time, we would not have a problem now. This is because Jordan's foreign debt is much less than the overdue Arab aid.

Question: Are contacts being held with the concerned Arab countries to pay their due aid?

Answer: The contacts are continuous and the issue was raised in the Amman and Algiers summits. The Arab brothers are aware of the situation in the Kingdom. Our contacts are continuous to reach agreement on following up the support and to cover the deficit. In light of this situation, the government was forced to review many financial, economic, and monetary policies. It adopted a series of measures which proved, praise be to God, the success of this method. This method basically depends on reducing expenditure, not resorting to loans except at low levels, giving priority to servicing public debts, not spending on infrastructure projects as these projects are almost completed in the Kingdom, encouraging production and exports, and reducing our usage of foreign currencies. The results so far are very good, praise be to God. The citizens have responded and their response played a big role in the success of these measures and this policy. The Kingdom was able to absorb the situation despite the difficulty in changing living habits. We will continue to deal with the new situation until the issue of the Arab aid to Jordan is resolved. I am sure our brothers will not let us down.

Question: In light of the recent visit to Amman by Yasir 'Arafat, what are the bases of cooperation between Jordan and the PLO now and what are the limits of this cooperation on the level of the West Bank?

Answer: The cooperation and coordination with the PLO is now at the best level due to his majesty the king's decision to disengage the administrative and legal relationship with the West Bank. This decision has removed all sensitivities and doubts, if there were any, between the PLO and Jordan. The PLO feels that his majesty the king's and the Jordanian Government's only aim is to highlight Palestinian identity, enable the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate rights, follow the best methods to guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, and help the Palestinian people exercise their right to self-determination and choose their future. As I have noted, the sensitivities were

removed and we began a new stage of cooperation and coordination. We are now in continuous contact with the PLO. We back the PLO in all its decisions and its recent political stands.

The situation in the occupied Arab territory is serious. Israel's escalating repressive practices call on all the Arab countries and the world to intensify efforts to tackle the basis of the problem—that is, the continuation of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. Israel must withdraw and our stand on this is clear and well-known. We call for an international peace conference to be attended by the five major powers and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Through these negotiations, we will reach an agreement to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory, and enable the Palestinian brothers in the occupied territory decide their future and establish an independent state on their national soil. The coordination between Jordan and the PLO positively affects the situation in the West Bank as it gives hope to our kinfolk there to reach salvation. Our kinfolk's resistance of the occupation and blessed uprising in the face of the occupation will continue. This resistance must be accompanied by earnest political work outside the occupied territory to expedite the achievement of the national objectives.

Question: How true is the information that an initial agreement has been reached between you and Yasir 'Arafat on the confederation state or any kind of confederation?

Answer: In fact, there has been no agreement between us and the PLO on the confederation or its details. The PLO has adopted a position calling for the establishment of the independent Palestinian state first and then establishing a confederation with Jordan. The PNC and PLO Executive Committee have issued resolutions supporting this trend, and we believe that proposing the subject of confederation today is premature. We also realize that there are special and distinguished relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples rooted in all family, social, and economic fields. It is natural to have a distinguished and special relationship reflecting this reality, but it is premature to discuss the details of the confederation. Because, as I said, the important thing is to focus attention on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their rights of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. Then we can discuss the nature of relations between the state of Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Question: The new U.S. secretary of state has called for the establishment of a confederation between Jordan and the West Bank. What is your opinion? Is this considered a new avoidance of the Arab will power to establish an independent Palestinian state?

Answer: Irrespective of the position taken by the United States, Israel, or any other party, the Palestinian state stands and it has gained the recognition of more than 100 states. We do not believe that the United States or Israel has the right to determine the future of the occupied Arab territories. Efforts should be geared toward securing Israel's withdrawal and gaining the Palestinian people's right to establish their independent state on their land. When the PNC agreed to proclaim the establishment of the independent state and to adhere to UN resolutions, including Resolution 181 which gave the birth certificate to the state of Israel, it agreed to a right granted to it by the international community in accordance with this resolution. We do not consider the positions declared by certain countries as important or final, because what is important is to concentrate on the required Arab efforts to support the Palestinian trend toward peace which is based on the establishment of the Palestinian state and Israel's peace.

Question: It seems that there is a conviction in Britain that an Israeli dialogue with the PLO will take place in the next few months or in the spring. What is your opinion?

Answer: I do not know exactly what will happen, but I know that Israel has a real problem and is interested in finding a solution. Israel cannot continue to occupy Palestinian territories and dominate the Palestinian people who revolted against the occupation. Any solution that does not lead to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories will not succeed. If Israel considers annexing the West Bank and Gaza, this would either make half of Israel's population consist of Arabs—which would lead to the demise of the Israeli state—or result in the exercise of racial discrimination against Palestinians if Israel wants to consider them second class citizens. Thus, Israel would become a racist, colonial state like South Africa.

Question: But is this a reality today? Is Israel a racist state in every sense of the word?

Answer: Indeed. However it is applying this policy today as a colonial power, not as a state practicing racial discrimination against its citizens. It is doing all that when it is talking a great deal about Israeli democracy, the high morality of the state and other propaganda slogans which have no relationship whatsoever with what is taking place on the ground. Israel cannot continue to oppose the Palestinian reistance and bear the enormous costs of this occupation. We are already seeing signs of internal splits within the ranks of the Israeli people and army. We have also followed in the news media what has happened between Yitzhaq Shamir and the Israeli soldiers during his visit to one of the army camps, when the soldiers criticized him and his government policy, saying: "How long will we continue killing defenseless children who are resisting the occupation with stones, and is this the army's job?"

I believe that in the end Israel will find itself facing the only solution; namely, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. As to when this would take place and whether Shamir would agree to it or not and also whether it would take place under the present administration or not, these are questions which are difficult to answer now. At any rate, matters are moving toward these results. World pressure on Israel, which is essentially based on a common Arab stand, will double. Israel will feel its isolation more and more. I do not think that the United States will be in a position to continue to give Israel the absolute support it received under the previous U.S. Administration.

Question: What is your information about Israel's reported desire to deport the West Bank Palestinians to Jordan and Lebanon and to resettle them there, and what would be the Arab reply?

Answer: There is a very small percentage of political opinion in Israel calling for the deportation of the Palestinian people from their land. But this is mere talk which is difficult for Israel to carry out. To deport the entire Arab population from the West Bank, Israel would have to wage a new war to force the Palestinian people to emigrate, to occupy new Arab territories, and to withdraw from these new territories to maintain its occupation of the whole of Palestinian soil. A general war on several fronts will not be easy. International conditions will not allow Israel to take such a step, especially in light of the building of an Arab deterent force. We are observing today that the world trend, especially in the United States and the USSR, is inclined toward solving regional conflicts peacefully. There is much proof of such a trend in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq, and other areas. The world today will not permit an aggressive and expansionist state like Israel to wage a new war.

Question: Reports were published in Western Europe saying that His Majesty King Husayn will visit Washington to meet President George Bush. Can we say that there is a new American initiative in the Middle East?

Answer: His Majesty King Husayn will of course visit the United States for talks with President Bush on the Middle East, the Palestine question, and the Arab-Israeli dispute. The visit will materialize at the first opportunity agreed upon. His majesty the king's opinion is that we are not in need of new initiatives as we are fed up with initiatives. The bases of settlement and solution exist and are agreed upon by the world except for the Israeli stand which, regrettably, was supported by the American stand. What is required, as I said, is agreement to convene an international conference with PLO participation to discuss the methods of solution, implement UN Security Council resolutions, achieve Israeli withdrawal, and give Palestinian people their rights. This formula is accepted on the international, Arab, and European levels and within the quarters of the nonaligned states, the Eastern bloc, and the Latin American states. This issue, however, is faced with Israeli intransigence and U.S. hesitation. We are against any new initiatives and do not want to return the issue to square one after making progress in this regard and after His Majesty King Husayn's achievements to gain international support for this approach. The Arab stand today supports the PLO in its approaches. Concentration must focus on the basic requirements for a settlement, not on the search for new initiatives.

Question: Does Jordan accept the idea of holding a conference to reach a solution under the aegis of the two superpowers—the United States and the USSR alone—without the other major powers?

Answer: No, no. The comprehensive international conference is necessary. Israel objects to the formula of the international conference not because it does not like conferences but because it rejects the bases of the conference. It does not want international legitimacy to supervise the international resolutions. When it says it wants negotiations without preconditions this means that it does not accept the Security Council resolutions. This also means nonagreement on the basic principles of the settlement. This is also rejected. Israel is trying to cover this rejection by proposing alternatives that are contrary to the required basis of the settlement. Our stand is clear. The general outlines of our stand are based on convening the international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. We do not want the Arab-Israeli dispute to become a dispute between the two superpowers.

Question: Is this Egypt's stand also?

Answer: Egypt's stand is similar to ours. We are in continuous contact. Not all published views and information are correct.

Question: When will the ordinary Arab summit convene? Will Egypt attend it, and how?

Answer: Jordan's view is that the ordinary Arab summit must convene at the agreed upon venue—that is, Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. There is semi-unanimity that the first topic on the summit agenda should be Egypt's return to the summit and the Arab League. It is expected—we hope—that the summit will issue a decision at the beginning of the summit calling on Egypt to return to the summit and the Arab League so that His Excellency President Husni will be able to participate in the summit meetings. With regard to when the ordinary summit will convene, this depends on the Arab leaders' agreement on this. Contacts and consultations are continuous and the decision depends on the appropriate circumstances and developments in the Arab arena.

Question: What has been achieved so far on the level of Jordan's efforts to remove Arab differences?

Answer: For some time now, His Majesty King Husayn has been exerting intensive efforts to remove all Arab differences and to close Arab ranks. His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has also exerted commendable efforts to this end. These efforts, which are continuing, have so far achieved certain positive results as we all know. It is essential to remove all Arab differences before the summit. This objective can be met. However, the summit can also serve as a suitable occasion to settle many of these differences. The summit should be used to exert further efforts to this end. We are certain that all these differences, which are really transitory, will be removed and Arab solidarity will be achieved as a basis for a common Arab stand, especially in the present circumstgances. Arab solidarity and the common stand will ensure common Arab security against all the challenges threatening the region.

Question: How true is the Jordanian plan to set up an Arab bloc consisting of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and North Yemen and what are the aims of this bloc?

Answer: It is not a Jordanian plan, but the outcome of consultations which are still taking place among several Arab states for the sake of cooperation. Any such bloc must remain open to all fraternal Arab states, regardless of who initiates it. The important thing is the objective, which is a new method of Arab cooperation. This cooperation already exists in the form of agreements and joint higher committees on a bilateral level. We now seek to build such cooperation on a collective level. We hope to achieve this objective, God willing.

Question: Do you expect a settlement of the Lebanese crisis following the formation of the six-member Arab committee, and what are the prospects of success for the Arab initiative this time?

Answer: Lebanon's conditions are indeed tragic. Our efforts to end this tragedy stem from our concern to preserve the unity, independence, and sovereignty of that fraternal Arab country over all of its territories. While we understand the difficult and complicated situation in Lebanon, we believe that the solution must be based on agreement among all Lebanese factions. All Arab efforts must be geared toward such an inter-Lebanese agreement. The solution to the crisis must stem from the Lebanese themselves with Arab backing to achieve the objectives I mentioned; namely, unity, indpendence, and sovereignty. We consider the absence of a president of the republic, the non-election of a house speaker, the presence of two governments, and a divided army, a very serious situation. We hope our Lebanese brothers will be able to settle their diferences, rise above their factional interests, and place Lebanon's interests above all other temporary interests, because the real interests can only be achieved by preserving Lebanon's unity and integrity.

I have learned that the Arab committee would attempt to get all the Lebanese sides together, listen to their views, help formulate specific proposals for a settlement, and begin the process of rebuilding Lebanon by first rebuilding its constitutional institutions.

Question: Where have Jordanian efforts reached to urge the West European states to develop a unified and clear stand on the Palestine question against Israeli intransigence?

Answer: Actually, the European stand has developed positively. I believe we can say now that there is a unified European stand backing the PLO and the bases of a settlement as viewed by the Arabs. This European orientation will translate itself in the futrue into a pressing factor on Israel and other states supporting Israel to have them change their stand. We are satisfied with the European stand. We believe that the European stand had a basic and effective role in pushing the peace march toward its current forward position. The British role in particular is important, effective, and essential. This is in light of Britain's special contacts with the United States. So are the French, Spanish, and German roles. They all flow in the same direction, which is supporting the Palestinian-Arab orientation.

Question: What is your opinion on the political calls for a truce to the Palestinian uprising and on the clear rejection of these calls?

Answer: No force in the the world can stop the uprising. The uprising is a popular revolution against the occupation. God willing, it will continue until it achieves its objectives. Any attempt to talk about a truce or a halt to the uprising serves nobody but Israel, which is suffering from the uprising and its results. The issue is not that of a truce. It is an issue of continued struggle until the causes which led to the uprising come to an end; that is, the termination of the Israeli occupation. As long as the occupation is there, the Palestinian people's resistance to this occupation must continue. Truce proposals and the like are aimed at distracting attention from the root of the problem.

Question: What are the chances of a comprehensive war erupting in the Middle East following the Palestinian resolutions and Israel's rejection of them?

Answer: We occasionally hear some voices saying that Israel may try to escape its impasse by launching a new war in order to change the existing equations. I do not rule out that such thoughts might exist in the minds of some Israelis. However, a war, eventually, depends on the presence or lack of an Arab deterrent force and

ability to repulse any fresh aggression. A war decision is not easy. As long as there is an Arab force capable of defending the Arab land and deterring Israel, Israel will have to consider following the path of peace, not war.

Jordan has the longest borderline with Israel. We consider the Kingdom the front defense line for the Arab world. Any force possessed by Jordan is a force for the entire Arab world. Any force capable of deterring Israel must be a force that contributes toward reaching a peaceful just, honorable, and acceptable settlement. The same applies to Syria. Syria's strength and deterrent power also contributes toward reaching an acceptable peace settlement. In a case like ours, developing a military and economic force and possessing pillars of steadfastness and confrontation are basic factors leading to peace, not war. It is our force that will make Israel accept peace.

Question: Your confidence in Arab solidarity is great and inspires optimism. Is the current Arab situation actually based on this solidarity?

Answer: I see nothing else on the horizon. I view any Israeli aggression against any Arab state an aggression against the entire Arab nation. In case of aggression, every Arab state will contribute in one way or another toward confronting this aggression militarily, financially, economically, or politically. Such a battle is the battle of all Arabs. It is the same battle.

AL-DUSTUR on Israeli 'Threats' Against Iraq

JN0302083289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Feb 89 p 1

[Editorial: "An Exposed Israeli Maneuver To Export an Internal Crisis"]

[Text] The Israeli enemy resumed threats of military aggression against sisterly Iraq on the pretext that Iraq possesses chemical and biological weapons. Undoubtedly, while making such threats, Israel is fully aware that the Iraq of today is not like that of yesterday when Israel exploited its preoccupation with the war to commit its aggression against the Iraqi nuclear reactor. The increasing Iraqi military power will not allow Israelis to repeat their previous mischief and escape a major Iraqi retaliation.

Hence we believe that Israel's resumption of threats to Iraq on the pretext of Iraq's possession of chemical weapons is only another Israeli attempt to export an intrinsic crisis and distract the attention of world public opinion from the urgent issue in the Middle East, which is the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions and international legitimacy. However, Israeli allegations about chemical weapons are definitely based on an ill will against Iraq. Israel looks forward to weakening this Arab bastion which emerged from the war a stronger and more dependable force in this region, which Israel is trying to control.

Israel cannot find answers to the major questions posed by the uprising. It cannot indefinitely resist increasing international pressures regarding the issue of peace in the region. It has to realize that the world has changed a great deal and that its threats no longer frighten anybody in the Arab world, which is now becoming stronger, more unified, and more effective. The Arab world now shows more confidence about itself and the future of its generations. Israel has only to reconsider the extent to which the stone of a Palestinian child has managed to neutralize its entire advanced war machine.

Reported Decision 'To End' Hostage Issue Noted

NC0702101889 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
6 Feb 89 p 5

[From "The First Reports" feature]

[Text] The U.S. Embassies in Beirut and Damascus have been trying to find out if the Syrian-Iranian meetings which were held in Damascus and which led to the conclusion of the reconciliation agreement between Amal and Hizballah had also broached the issue of the hostages and the need to release them soon.

Within this context, an informed political source in West Beirut has stated that the issue of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon has heated up in a manner that could lead to the successive release of the hostages in light of a decision made by regional parties concerned to end this issue.

PFLP Rejects Israeli Charge of 'Terrorism'

NC0702103289 Paris AFP in English 1024 GMT
7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 7 (AFP)—A Palestinian group claiming responsibility for an infiltration bid into Israel over the weekend said Tuesday that armed struggle remained "one of the main weapons" used by the PLO against Israel and denied that such action constituted terrorism.

The remark came as Israel formally called on Washington to sever renewed links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation after Sunday's failed infiltration bid.

Israeli troops killed five Palestinian guerrillas during a shoot-out in Hasbayya, southern Lebanon, when the commando tried to infiltrate across the border into northern Israel.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of three main groups within the PLO umbrella, had said that the attack was jointly organised by the PFLP and the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF).

In its statement Tuesday the PFLP denied the "allegations of the enemy (Israel) that this heroic operation constituted an intensification of terrorism."

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last December 14 explicitly recognised Israel and renounced terrorism during a press conference in Geneva.

"The popular armed struggle is one of the main weapons used by the PLO in its battle to recover Palestinian national rights and to confront the terrorism practised by the enemy against our people in the (Israeli) occupied territories," the PFLP statement said. [passage omitted]

Israeli Soldiers Said Held by Pro-Iran Group

NC0702103989 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
6 Feb 89 p 5

[From "The First Reports" feature]

[Text] Israeli military personnel who disappeared while on a mission [not further specified] in Lebanon are being held hostage by a pro-Iranian militia. This is revealed in file No 43 that was stored in the Islamic Republic's chancellery in Geneva. The said file has fallen into the hands of the Iranian people's fedayeen (who are independent Marxist-Leninists).

This confirms that the detained Israelis are still alive. They are: Staff Sergeants Zekharya Baumel, Tzvi Sarjment, and Samir Asad and Corporals Yehuda Katz, Yosef Fink, and Rahamin Levy Al-Fruayqi. [names as published]

New Israeli Deployments, Other Activities Noted

NC0702080789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] According to reports from the South, Israeli occupation authorities have deployed new forces and vehicles in areas close to Hasbayya and Marj 'Uyun during the past few hours. The Israeli forces have tightened their siege of the town of Shab'a and continue to cut the road to Hasbayya with barbed wire. They also have threatened drivers against operating their vehicles alone, stating that otherwise they will be fired upon without prior warning.

The occupation forces have established a mobile roadblock on the Arnun-Yuhmur-al-Shaqif Road in the Al-Nabatiyah area and subjected those passing through the roadblock to meticulous searches. They arrested gendarm Yusuf Sa'id and soldier Husayn Ibrahim, both from the town of Dayr Siryan. The gendarme was released later, but the soldier is still being detained.

Meanwhile, in the eastern sector in the South, agent Lahd's militia artillery fired phosphorous shells at the outskirts of the town of Kufayr al-Zayt and the 'Ayn 'Ata Road north of Hasbayya. The militia also opened large-caliber machinegun fire in the direction of Mazra'at 'Ayn Tanta and the heights of Al-Jabal al-Wastani.

In a separate development, an Israeli armored force searched the Al-Hasbani area. Israeli vehicles, including Merkava tanks, moved into positions held by Lahd's militia in Tall Zaghlah and 'Ayn Qinya.

In the meantime, resistance fighters used surface-to-surface missiles to pound two positions held by the Israeli occupation forces and agent Antoine Lahd's militia in Bayt Yahun and Haddathah hill. The occupation forces launched a campaign of arrests in Al-Naqurah.

Resistance fighters also detonated an explosive device under a vehicle belonging to the occupation forces in Al-Naqurah at dawn today. The vehicle was damaged and those in it were killed or wounded.

Ja'ja' Warns 'Corrective Movement' Against 'Awn

NC0702090889 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 30 Jan 89 p 5

[Text] According to a well-informed source in East Beirut, Michel 'Awn, the head of the military clique, has been warned that he will be overthrown if he concludes any settlement under the current Arab efforts without consulting with the "Lebanese Forces." The source says that Samir Ja'ja', commander of the "Forces" militia, believes that there is discontent among many officers over 'Awn's recent positions.

Ja'ja' told some of his guests that the Army is going to conduct a corrective movement against 'Awn, along the lines of the coup in which Ja'ja' replaced [former Lebanese Forces commander] Elie Hubayqah on 15 January 1986. Ja'ja' maintains that officers loyal to him greatly outnumber those loyal to 'Awn in East Beirut.

Red Cross To Resume Activities in February

NC0702085189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] (Francoise Diron), spokeswoman for the International Red Cross Committee in Beirut, has stated to AFP that the committee decided yesterday to resume its activities in Lebanon after it had suspended them on 20 January. She said that the decision was made during the committee's Executive Council meeting in Geneva yesterday. She added that the committee will actually resume its activities in February.

The spokesman said that the decision to resume the committee's activities was made following negotiations in Lebanon and other countries such as Syria, Algeria, and Libya. She added that these talks enabled the committee to confirm for itself that its specific and independent task is now understood and that it enjoys the required support and respect.

Birri on Withdrawal of Syrian Forces

NC0602174989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri held a news conference today to mark the anniversary of the 6 February 1984 uprising. He said: On 6 February 1984, an uprising was carried out in West Beirut and the southern suburb, which succeeded in bringing Lebanon from the Israeli era into the Arab era. This uprising was the true and main factor that paved the way for the annulment of the 17 May agreement. Furthermore, it moved Lebanon from the West to the East and changed the 1943 regime into the second republic.

Minister Birri went on to say, on this occasion and on the occasion of Hasan Qasir [not further identified]: We again draw inspiration from the significance of the accord [of 1984] embracing the nationalist and Islamic forces, and the need to consolidate this accord and find a nationalist formula that would implement the draft agreement between Amal and Hizballah. We emphasize our commitment to implementing this agreement and forging ahead in this direction, because all internal bloodshed that is prevented constitutes a step along the road of the 6 February uprising and the road of Hasan Qasir.

Minister Birri declared that the 6 February uprising was a true qualitative step that brought Lebanon from the Israeli era to the Arab era. It paved the way for the annulment of the 17 May agreement. He accused those in favor of the 1943 formula of opposing all change and instilling despair in the hearts of the people. In this regard, he pointed to the distribution of roles between General Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja'.

Minister Birri said: If they want a timetable for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces, we are ready to submit it now. But before a single Syrian soldier withdraws, the last Israeli soldier and the last agent soldier collaborating with Israel must have withdrawn. In other words, Resolution 425 should be implemented in full. Furthermore, there must be a Lebanese-Lebanese accord and a new regime, which must agree on the unity of the army.

Minister Birri said that the problem in Lebanon is not that of security. Security is part of the accord, he stated. He added: We need a new regime in Lebanon, because the old Lebanon is dead. The dead cannot come back to life except through miracles, and I do not believe we are living in an age of miracles.

He pointed out that the cabinet will discuss ways of activating the government's work, particularly with regard to administrative affairs.

Minister Birri touched on the Amal-Hizballah agreement and said: This agreement is being implemented and so far neither of the two sides has shown any procrastination in implementing it.

Syrians Reportedly Seek To Reopen Air Base

NC0702062789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] According to reports from Al-Biqa', the Syrian Air Force Command is currently trying to resume operations at the Riyaq air base [in Lebanon] in coordination with the Ablah barracks.

It has been learned that a Syrian technical team visited the base last Thursday to see what could be done to speed up the resumption of operations there.

Hizballah Reportedly Smuggling Arms Into Syria

NC0602125189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] According to reports received by Radio Free Lebanon, Hizballah has been sending arms to Syria for some time now. These reports say Hizballah smuggled arms and ammunition from Brital in Al-Biqa' to Shi'ite villages in the governorates of Idlib, Homs, and Damascus during the period 20-23 January this year, despite the fact that the Syrian intelligence services were tipped off about the matter. The Syrian intelligence services also had prior knowledge that the operation would be carried out at the instructions of Hizballah leader Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli through 'Ali Husayn Ahmad Tulays, and under the supervision of arms merchants 'Ali Mazlum and 'Ali al-Shaykh.

Iranian Delegation Meets Amal, Hizballah Leaders

LD0602220389 Tehran IRNA in English 2110 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb 6, IRNA—An Iranian delegation headed by the Islamic Propagation Organization deputy for international affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri met the vice-chairman of the supreme Shi'ite Assembly of Lebanon Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din here Monday and discussed with him various issues of that country.

The two sides also discussed the executive aspects of the Amal-Hizballah agreement and related issues.

Shams al-Din lauded Iran's role in the recent agreement between the Amal and Hizballah which he considerd a turning point for the unity of Muslim forces.

The Iranian delegation stressed the necessity of unity among Muslims to foil the plots of the Zionists regime.

The delegation also held a meeting with a number of Lebanon's Hizballah members here Sunday.

Heads of the Hizballah delegation Seyyed 'Abbas Musawi and Shaykh Naim Qasem emphasized the importance of the Amal-Hizballah recent agreement and expressed satisfaction with it.

The delegation also met head of Amal movement Nabih Birri here today and conferred with him on the results of the agreement between Hizballah and Amal.

The Iranian delegation including officials of Foreign Ministry and Iran's Embassy in Lebanon arrived here Sunday.

Hizballah, Amal Agree on Implementation Schedule

NC0702083789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Hizballah-Amal joint coordination committee has approved a schedule, to begin Thursday [9 February], for implementing the Damascus agreement to end the fighting between the groups. The committee held a meeting yesterday in the Syrian observers headquarters in the Beau Rivage. It was attended by Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers team; Amal representatives Dr Muhammad Baydun and Haytham Jum'ah; and Hizballah representatives Hajj Husayn Khalil and Muhammad Funaysh.

It has been learned that the committee approved a timetable for implementing the points stipulated in the Damascus agreement and the security addemndum, which has been signed by all parties concerned. The committee also discussed issues pertaining to the activity of the joint operation room in the South.

According to the timetable, the implementation process will begin on Thursday with the withdrawal of Hizballah fighters from Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar, the lifting of the seige of military positions, and the opening of the roads leading to the area. A subcommittee comprising Jamal Qulqas for the Amal Movement, and Sa'id Mattut for Hizballah, has been formed for this purpose. The subcommittee members will leave for Iqlim al-Tuffah today to conduct a field study of the situation there, determine withdrawal routes, and open the roads.

On Friday, both sides will implement the article on returning displaced persons to the South and the suburb, releasing prisoners, and returning the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah to their homes.

On Saturday, they will implement the article on restoring conditions prevailing before 5 April 1988 by reopening Hizballah's political, media, cultural, and social offices.

On Monday, an agreement will be reached with the Syrian forces to close the military offices of both sides in the suburb. The appearance of gunmen will be prohibited, except on the contact lines with the eastern area of Beirut. Each side will retain five offices for political, media, cultural, social, and boy and girl scout activities. [passage omitted]

2 Parties Denounce 'Arafat-'Awn Tunis Meeting

JN0302131289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut—The Syrian Social National Party and the Lebanese Communist Party called for consolidating the distinguished relationship between Lebanon and Syria with bonds affirming the unity of destiny.

In a statement, the two parties denounced the 'Awn-'Arafat meeting in Tunis. They affirmed that the meeting serves the fascist, isolationist plan in Lebanon, as well as

capitulationist schemes. They also affirmed that the Arab League good offices committee regarding Lebanon must work for the achievement of political reforms in the structure of the Lebanese system, expel the Israeli enemy, and support the national Lebanese resistance.

The statement called for denouncing the Israeli policy of deportations against the Lebanese. It called for Arab support for the steadfastness of the Lebanese citizens in the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

State Department 'Resentment' of Strike Noted

NC0402092989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Report by Voice of Lebanon correspondent 'Aziz Ra'd in Washington—recorded]

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST has cited State Department officials, whose names were not revealed, as saying that, earlier this week, President Bush's administration had discussed the possibility of closing down the U.S. Embassy in the 'Awkar area of Beirut due to the strike by a large number of the embassy's Lebanese guards over demands for higher pay. The officials pointed out that the way in which the strike was carried out raised questions and cast doubts in Washington with regard to the future security of the embassy.

But the Bush administration finally decided not to close the embassy although many officials had proposed this step. The administration's decision was generated by fears that the closure would give the impression that the United States was retreating diplomatically in the world, particularly in light of the recent embassy closure in Afghanistan.

The State Department has had talks with officials in the Lebanese Embassy here on this issue. The State Department has played down the significance of this development, describing it is a local working claim which the department will examine. The State Department official spokesman last Monday tried to downplay the importance of news reports which indicated that the strikers had detained Ambassador John McCarthy and other diplomats in their offices for 3 hours.

But it appears that the State Department sources overcame this official reservation yesterday when they expressed their resentment over this event by leaking information to THE WASHINGTON POST.

French Envoy Arrives in Beirut 3 Feb

NC0302180989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] French envoy (Jean Francois de Nieux) arrived at Khaldah Airport shortly after 1800 today, accompanied by (Roland de Bertru), official in charge of Lebanese affairs at the French Foreign Ministry. The French military attache and embassy staff received (De Nieux) and his companion, who immediately set off for the French Embassy in Al-Hazimiyah.

Army, PSP Clash in Mountain Area 6 Feb

NC0602185989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The sound of explosions is being heard in some of Beirut's suburbs. Our security correspondent reports that a clash involving the use of rockets and antitank weapons is taking place between the army, from its positions in Dahr al-Wahsh, and the PSP and its associates, from their positions in Qurs al-Mudawwar [in the mountain area]. The clash erupted when the PSP directed anti-armor fire at the army's positions. Consultations are being carried out through members of the security committee to end the fighting.

Parties Agree on Cease-Fire

NC0602203589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Guarded calm has prevailed along the 'Alay-Suq al-Gharb combat lines since 2000 tonight, after the parties concerned reached and observed a cease-fire. The areas of Al-Hayy al-Gharbi, 'Alayh, and Hill 888 came under flat trajectory artillery and mortar fire earlier, from 'Awn militia positions in Al-Brins and 'Ayn al-Sayyidah. This was followed by intensive sniper fire that hit residential areas.

Group Attacks Syrian Positions in Tripoli

NC0702102289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that its members attacked a position belonging to the Syrian special forces, Major Husayn Jammul's quarters, in the Al-Qubbah area [in Tripoli] this morning.

Another group from the organization attacked a position belonging to the Arab Democratic Party in (al-Mankubin), where the Syrian forces had conducted storming and arrest campaigns.

The organization has asserted that it will keep attacking Syrian positions until they are totally removed.

Group Claims Attack on SLA Patrol in South

NC0702121489 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] A resistance group today attacked a Lahd militia patrol behind the Kafr Falus combat lines in the area of the Al-Hariri installations. In an ensuing clash, the group inflicted a number of casualties and losses on the patrol. The Martyr Muhammad Slim unit of the Lebanese National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Al-Asad Receives Thank-You Message From Gorbachev
JN0702074089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev which included thanks and appreciation to Syria and the president for the assistance extended to the Armenian earthquake victims. The following is the text of the message:

The Soviet leadership and all Soviet citizens express their deep gratitude to the Syrian people and the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for the sympathy shown over the devastating earthquake in the Armenian SSR. The ample and effective assistance—through medical supplies, medicines, other requirements, and food—swiftly provided by friendly Syria proves once again that our two peoples always stand together in good and bad times.

The Soviet people will not forget this effective sympathy with them during their plight. We greatly appreciate your personal participation in these humane efforts. We thank you for your sincere condolences and hopes for dealing with the consequences of the tragedy in the shortest possible time. The Armenian tragedy has filled the hearts of millions of people in the world with pain. It has also brought about a wave of solidarity and sympathy. We view in this the spirit of the age and an understanding of mankind's common destiny, which will be safeguarded by the current positive developments that are taking place in the world.

I am fully confident that the strong friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria will develop for the benefit of both countries and for the sake of establishing comprehensive security and strong peace in the whole world.

TISHRIN on Bush-Baker Middle East Policy
PM0301165189 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Jan 89 p8

[Ahmad Siwan article: "Bush-Baker Administration and U.S. Policy in Region"]

[Text] With George Bush's assumption of power in the U.S. White House and with his Secretary of State James Baker's statements that the Bush administration would feel free to complete and amend the Reagan administration's policy on the Middle East according to prevailing conditions, we wonder to what extent U.S. foreign policy in the Bush-Baker era will adopt objective, balanced stances toward the Arab-Zionist conflict and conditions in the Middle East region.

To answer this question, we first must acknowledge that Bush came to power relatively free of the Jewish electoral vote which backed Dukakis in the election campaign. Furthermore, during the ceremonies marking Bush's assumption of power as the 41st U.S. President, U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman expressed U.S. criticism of Zionist repressive measures against Arab citizens—measures under which the Zionist war minister, Rabin, granted his forces expanded powers to quell stonethrowers and those taking part in the uprising in the occupied territories. Redman said: What Rabin has announced is a great cause for concern and the application of these measures will lead only to deterioration of an already tense situation."

We say this without ignoring the fact that Baker himself, when questioned at the Senate prior to his appointment as secretary of state succeeding George Shultz, emphasized the principles of U.S. policy in the region, especially toward Israel, in the following manner: to continue to fully back Israel; to reject Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories; to oppose establishment of an independent Palestinian state. But Baker did not close the door to any change in the fixed and known U.S. position adopted by successive administrations. He has left ajar the U.S. door pending new developments and conditions in the region, in view of which the new Bush-Baker administration would decide whether to make a change in the U.S. position, to adhere to the same principles, or to reshuffle and reorganize the cards more harmoniously.

Regardless of observers' predictions and their arduous efforts in monitoring developments and U.S. positions on them, an important fact remains, that is, the United States as a superpower directly responsible for international peace and security is required to abandon the Zionist vision that prevents it from taking a balanced, objective position toward conditions in the region.

If the United States continues to see these conditions through a Zionist eye, it will be biased toward the Zionist entity's hostile policy and expansionist approach at a time when the United States is required to see conditions as they are and as seen by the international community which demands that the Zionist threat be halted and Israeli intransigence and rejection be ended. It also demands that truth and justice be established in the region, that the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people be supported, that the Zionist enemy be forced to withdraw from the occupied territories, and that international resolutions and the international community's wishes be implemented by achieving a just, true, comprehensive peace in the region.

Afghanistan

Prospects for Peaceful Settlement Remain 'Bleak'

BK0702042289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0411 GMT 7 Feb 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 7 (AFP)—Only a week before the end of a Soviet troop withdrawal, prospects for peace in Afghanistan remain bleak with Moscow still striving for a face-saving accord to stop the fighting, analysts said here. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Islamabad, which ended Monday, failed to make any headway and he did not even meet leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance based in Pakistan.

Before leaving, Mr. Shevardnadze said he regretted that the mujahidin rebels were unwilling to accept representation of the ruling communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in a future interim government. The Soviet diplomat warned that denying such a role for the PDPA, which he repeatedly described at his press conference as the most important and best organized force in Afghanistan, could lead to civil war.

The mujahidin accused Mr. Shevardnadze of interfering in Afghan affairs by insisting on a position for the PDPA, described by a resistance spokesman as a group of "criminals" who would be tried for the bloodshed in the country.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, a radical fundamentalist leader of the Pakistan-based alliance, said "the next few weeks will decide the strength of the PDPA."

"We will continue jihad (holy war) until the PDPA regime is replaced by an Islamic government," he added. Analysts said fighting would be centred around the three key government strongholds of Kabul, Qandahar in the south, and Jalalabad in the east.

The Soviet Embassy here noted in a daily bulletin that Moscow had asked Pakistan to back its call for a ceasefire, a point which was not referred to in a joint statement released at the end of Mr. Shevardnadze's visit. The statement essentially recalled the two sides' official positions on Afghanistan and reiterated their desire to encourage a broad-based government. Moscow has reportedly asked Islamabad to try to persuade the mujahidin to accept representation of the PDPA in a traditional council, or shura, to be held Friday in Rawalpindi, near here, to choose an interim government.

Mujahidin leaders, particularly the commanders in the field, smell victory and do not see any advantage in negotiating at the moment, observers said. They continue to receive important support from Pakistan's secret service, whose chief General Hamid Gul has just been promoted, informed sources said.

The rebels are also being quietly encouraged by the United States not to compromise with President Najibullah's Soviet-backed regime, the sources said.

Mr. Shevardnadze confirmed that all Soviet troops had left Kabul and the rest would be out of Afghanistan within a week, ahead of the February 15 deadline for a full withdrawal set under last year's Geneva accords. He also recalled a Soviet proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan or a meeting of Afghan parties under United Nations auspices. Analysts said a peace accord or at least a ceasefire would allow the Soviet Union to save face among its communist allies after nine years in Afghanistan.

Mr. Shevardnadze mentioned briefly at his press conference that a new option for a peaceful settlement was being discussed but refused to elaborate. Diplomatic sources said the new alternative may involve changing the PDPA into a liberal political party acceptable to everybody—a plan that has already been discussed by U.N. negotiators.

UN Airlifts Emergency Supplies to Kabul

BK0702101089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 7 (AFP)- The United Nations' supervised airlift of emergency food and medical supplies for the stricken Afghan capital, Kabul, left from Pakistan on Tuesday, the first of a week-long series of U.N.-sponsored flights. An Egypt Air Boeing 707 aircraft, specially acquired by the U.N., took off early Tuesday morning from Islamabad airport with 32 tonnes of medical equipment, food, and other essential life-saving supplies.

The United Nations coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance Programme for Afghanistan, Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, said the air bridge would run for one week. During that time, "we plan to airlift a total of 390 tonnes of food and other essential supplies to the beseiged Afghan capital Kabul," he said.

Sadruddin Agha Khan, who personally supervised the airlift, said plans were also underway to send supplies to the besieged cities of Jalalabad, in eastern Afghanistan, and Herat, in western Afghanistan, by road from the Pakistan cities of Peshawar and Quetta. He said the Pakistan Government and Afghan rebel leaders have assured their support of the U.N. humanitarian programme.

The fundamentalist Afghan resistance leader, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, had demanded that the United Nations hand over the relief supplies to the mujahidin for distribution inside Afghanistan.

The air bridge, part of U.N. "Operation Salam" to rehabilitate Afghanistan, would bring food to 30,000 very vulnerable people in Kabul, U.N. sources said. "An air bridge would be limited to the most vulnerable

groups, notably children, and it won't be a matter of smothering Kabul with food," the sources said. This includes children under five years old, pregnant women, nursing mothers and hospital patients, they said, adding that the food would be enough for one month's overall supply.

The United Nations has estimated that 1.2 billion U.S. dollars are required for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, where Afghan rebels waged a nine-year battle to oust Soviet troops who invaded the country in December 1979.

Wakil, UN's Armacora Discuss Human Rights

LD0502213189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil met in his office this morning with Professor Felix Armacora, UN Human Rights Commission special rapporteur. During this meeting our foreign minister discussed the observation of human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan and spoke in particular about the Afghan armed opposition groups' violations of human rights, perpetrated with the support of Pakistan.

The Foreign Ministry added that the national reconciliation policy has provided extensive measures for observing the norms of human rights. During these talks Professor Armacora expressed thanks for the facilities provided to him during his visit to Afghanistan and for the comprehensive assistance Afghanistan has given in this connection.

Professor Armacora was briefed on the armed opposition's cruelty in Afghanistan. He considered the actions by these elements in Towr Kham, Konarha and other regions, as anti-human and shocking. Professor Armacora will prepare a report on human rights in Afghanistan and present it to the 25th human rights commission session which will be held in late February in Geneva. He pledged to prepare his report according to the facts.

It was later reported that Professor Armacora left Kabul this morning for Geneva. He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by the acting head of the UN department and that ministry's deputy head of protocol.

BAKHTAR Cites Perez de Cuellar on UN Support

LD0502062789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 4, BAKHTAR,—The United Nations supports territorial integrity and political independence of Afghanistan and is in the opinion that it is only Afghans to form their future government, says Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general in his speech to the United Nations.

He in his speech requested all Afghans to avail this opportunity and maintain talks, for the formation of a broad based government in the Republic of Afghanistan, among themselves in solving their differences peacefully. With the complete return of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan back home the Afghans, for the all-sided solution of political problems and reconstruction of their country, are facing grave tasks, he added.

According to another report ambassador of the Soviet Union to New York has discussed problems relating to political solution of situation around Afghanistan with the UN secretary general as well.

A spokesman for the UN disclosed that the UN secretary general is considering invitation extended to him by the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah to pay a visit to Afghanistan.

International press sources say that the UN is planning to start consignment of aid goods to Afghanistan soon. More than 25 to 30 tonnes of foodstuffs and medicines will be dispatched via air to Kabul. UN assistance to Konarha and Herat provinces will be shipped via surface transport soon.

Zahir Shah Offers 'Unconditional' Services

AU0702104089 Rome ANSA in English 1018 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, February 7—The exiled king of Afghanistan Muhammad Zahir Shah offered his unconditional services to his fellow countrymen in a radio message sent from here Monday, the monarch's spokesman said.

The 75 year old Zahir Shah, ousted by his cousin and the Communist Party in 1973, lives in the Roman suburbs and rarely makes public statements.

According to the king, the "new challenge" facing the country after the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the intensification of the conflict between government and rebel forces demands "the adoption of urgent measures, within the framework of Islamic principles, to permit and ensure national unity and to avoid divisions, civil war, and senseless shedding of blood in the country".

The situation in Afghanistan was the subject of a comunique released Monday by that nations' embassy in Rome. Afghan authorities, the note said, "have the situation in the country under control and are doing all they can to return national life to normal, and to avoid bloodshed."

"The gates of Kabul are open to all our citizens," the comunique continued, "in line with the humanitarian and realistic policies of national reconciliation and in the best interests of people and country." The note stressed the Afghan Government's ability to defend the nation against threats from outside the country.

Pakistani Violations of Geneva Accords Reported

Notice 206 on Downing of Plane

LD0502063189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 4, BAKHTAR—The 206th notice of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was submitted to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul. The notice has given information about the downing of an Afghan transport plane by F-16 Pakistani plane which caused the death of nine passengers including the crew.

The UNGOMAP asked the mission to investigate the violations and to assist Afghanistan in returning the deceased bodies.

207th Notice

LD0602062289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 5, BAKHTAR—The two hundred and seventh notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice all-sided information on the dispatching caravans of arms and ammunition from the Pakistani territory to the Republic of Afghanistan which is in complete contradiction with the Geneva accords and causes bloodshed and fratricide in the country are given to UNGOMAP.

It asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of Paragraph 7, Document Number 4 of the Geneva accords it investigate the Pakistani violations.

208th Notice

LD0702072589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The 208th memorandum of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan, detailing 22 flagrant Pakistani violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords, was handed this afternoon to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] in Kabul.

The memorandum contains accurate and comprehensive information about Pakistan's violations. It has been requested that the delegation assess the violations mentioned in the memorandum in accordance with Paragraph 7, Document 4, of the Geneva accords.

Mojadeddi Pact With Iran-Based Mujahidin Detailed

LD0702050889 Tehran IRNA in English 0505 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Sibghatullah Mojadeddi leader of the alliance of Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan returned to Islamabad Monday after concluding a deal with Iran-based mujahidin on the formation of a shura (council) to decide on an interim Afghan government.

He took along with him an agreement according to which the Iran-based Afghan groups accepted 80 seats in the shura, the Afghan mujahidin press agency, AAP [AGENCE AFGHAN PRESSE], reported.

The total number of seats in the shura has now reached 539. Each of the seven Afghan alliance groups will be assigned 60 seats. Eighty seats will go to the Iran based groups and 49 seats will remain independent.

"The agreement of the Iran-based Afghan groups has strengthened the mujahidin alliance and will come as a blow to the Soviets and other outside powers who are hoping that the Afghan groups will fall out and start fighting amongst themselves," AAP said. Mojadeddi: Control of Kabul and Jalalabad no problem.

Mojadeddi said the mujahidin strategy to capture Kabul and other cities was already framed to try to prevent losses among the civilian population. In an interview with AAP, he said control of Kabul and Jalalabad was "not a problem" for the mujahidin but he said, "We are keeping all the aspects in view."

"The factors involved in the Soviet pullout are a part of Soviet history, as the Afghan nation will never accept slavery," he said. The Kabul regime could not exist for a long time despite the fact that it was receiving sophisticated weapons from Moscow, he added.

Najibullah Receives DPRK Envoy's Credentials

LD0602181589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] This morning esteemed Afghan President Najibullah received his excellency Yong Po-yong who was appointed ambassador and representative extraordinary of the DPRK to the Republic of Afghanistan. In line with usual protocol, His Excellency Yong Po-yong delivered his credentials to esteemed Afghan President Najibullah. Esteemed Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil was also present.

During their talks, esteemed Najibullah applauded the developing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the DPRK and said he considers them useful for consolidating peace and security in the world, especially in Asia.

Esteemed Najibullah added that the appointment of the his excellency Yong Po-yong as ambassador and representative extraordinary of the DPRK to Afghanistan is a sign

of the DPRK's realism and confidence in the stability of the situation in Afghanistan. The DPRK is denying the policies of a number of countries, which have pulled out their diplomats under the pretext of a lack of security and as part of the intensification of the psychological warfare against the Republic of Afghanistan.

Najibullah Appoints Senator, Ratifies Decree

LD0702073289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The Office of the Presidency reports that esteemed Afghan President Najibullah appointed Mr Muhammad Esa Beg son of Ghulam Haydar as senator, based on Article 79, Paragraph 3, of the Constitution and in line with the list of appointed senators in accordance with the Decree 284, dated 7 Jawza 1367 [27 May 1988].

According to another report, esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, in accordance with Article 104 of the Constitution, ratified Legislative Decree No 29, dated 6 Dalw 1367 [26 January 1989] of the Council of Ministers on separation of the Azrow district from Lowgar Province and its attachment to Paktia Province.

Armed Forces Combat Operations 5-6 Feb

LD0602163889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] A reliable source in the Armed Forces told the BIA military section that except for some limited incidents, no serious combat operations have taken place in the country. The main highways connecting the center of the country to the provinces are open to traffic.

A report on the military situation in the country in the last 24 hours follows:

Qandahar: As a result of the Armed Forces' response to extremist attacks and following searches of villages in the region west of the airport, and in the wake of mopping up operations, 11 extremists were killed and another 5 were injured. A recoilless gun, a DShK, a heavy machinegun, 2 rocket launchers, 12 rockets, and a motorcycle belonging to the warmongering elements were destroyed. Twelve shells, seven surface-to-surface missiles, seven boxes of Kalashnikov rounds, and thousands of DShK rounds were seized.

Paktia: Extremist groups fired heavy weapons at Khowst city and some parts of Paktia Province, but did not cause any losses.

Herat: As a result of artillery and air force fire on extremist gathering places, four extremists were killed in the vicinity of Enjil district.

Baghlan: A number of warmongering extremists who were disrupting the peaceful life of people in central Baghlan came under the crushing blows of the Armed Forces artillery. As a result, two were killed and seven were injured. One communications radio was destroyed.

Konduz: As a result of crushing blows by Armed Forces units in Konduz Province against warmongering extremists' gathering places in Achin, [word indistinct], and Hazrat-e Soltan, and in the village of (Laghmani), and against those disrupting the security of Konduz city and Shir Khan-Bandar highway, 10 extremists were killed, including Nur Muhammad, a ringleader of the Gulbuddin group, and Mir Akbar, a ringleader of the Mohmadi group. In the course of these combat operations, four mortars, three ZK-1's, a communications system, and a large number of light enemy weapons were destroyed. According to another report, the criminal extremists, supported by the United States and Pakistan, fired heavy weapons on Konduz city security posts. As a result, 10 local people were injured.

Another report says that a number of youths who are qualified for the sacred military service reported to the military commissariats and expressed their solidarity with ranks of the Armed Forces. In the past 24 hours, 302 patriotic youths registered to fulfill their sacred military service around the country.

PDPA, DYOA Members Receive Military Training

LD0602180489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] PDPA members, as self-sacrificing members of the party, are forming combat units and learning to use weapons. They are prepared for any sacrifice in order to defend the achievements of the revolution and the country, and to ensure peace and security throughout the Republic of Afghanistan. They are doing this as part of their renewed pledge to their party.

According to BAKHTAR's military section, thousands of members of the Balkh and Jowzjan factions of the PDPA and the DYOA rallied in combat units of the party today, and underwent military training. Members of the PDPA and DYO continue to join combat units of the party.

Iran

Velayati Holds News Conference in Tehran 6 Feb

Views Prospects for U.S. Ties

LD0602155289 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Iran's foreign policy, the issue of foreign borrowings, and the situation in Afghanistan and Lebanon were among the most important topics discussed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at a news conference attended by some 100 foreign and Iranian journalists here this morning.

"Our foreign policy has not changed and we still adhere to our principles," he said, adding that the Islamic Republic favors friendly ties with all countries in the world except Israel and the Pretoria regime, "as well as the U.S. as long as it does not show its goodwill."

He also ruled out the likelihood of resumption of Tehran-Washington relations "unless the U.S. proves its good intention by releasing Iran's frozen assets in American banks."

Velayati, quoting Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said "if the U.S. shows its goodwill by releasing our frozen assets we, too, will show our good intention by helping secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon."

Asked on rumors that Tehran and Washington had exchanged messages on the July 3 U.S. downing of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf, Velayati replied: "We have not received any direct or indirect message for the U.S. Administration. We still hold Washington responsible for the catastrophe and believe the U.S. should make good on this."

The foreign minister denied reports on Iran's demand for a three billion dollar loan but said "we welcome participation of foreign companies in the country's rehabilitation projects."

On Iran-Iraq peace talks, Velayati stressed: "We want the U.N. secretary general and Security Council to seriously deal with Iraq's procrastination on Article 1 of Resolution 598 concerning the withdrawal of troops to internationally-recognized border."

Although Iran has time and again proved its good intention to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace, Iraq is still refusing to pull out its troops from over 2,000 square kms of Iranian territory it occupied, he said.

Velayati said it was clear to everyone that Iran retreated from Iraqi territory simultaneously with its acceptance of Resolution 598 last July, but that Iraq refused to do so and instead occupied more Iranian territory in a gross violation of the resolution.

On the possibility of direct talks between him and the Iraqi foreign minister as recommended by the U.N. chief and Security Council, Velayati said the Islamic Republic is ready to cooperate with the secretary general for the full implementation of Resolution 598.

However, Velayati warned if the Iraqi regime fails to pull out its troops from Iran any talks in the future would prove useless.

Turning to Afghan developments, the Iranian foreign minister welcomed the accord between the Iran and Pakistan-based mujahidin groups inked in Tehran yesterday following lengthy talks.

He said leaders of the Iran-based 8-party coalition departed for Peshawar today for talks to attain a comprehensive agreement on Afghanistan's future.

Velayati made it clear that the Islamic Republic attaches great importance to the fate of Afghan Muslims "but this does not mean we intend to interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs."

However, he pledged Islamic Iran's support for any accord between the mujahidin groups on the future government of Afghanistan.

He said Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov was in Tehran for talks on the Afghan issue. (Vorontsov who arrived here February 4 left Iran today.)

"Iran would welcome a visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze," said Velayati terming it as a good opportunity to exchange views on mutual ties.

He outlined Iran's foreign policy towards Muslim states including the Arab bloc, saying "the Islamic Republic seeks to expand its ties with Muslim countries including the Persian Gulf littoral states on the basis of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence."

On Saudi Arabia, which in July 1987 gunned down over 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranian, the Iranian foreign minister said "we want to perform the hajj pilgrimage in a principled manner." He did not elaborate.

Turning to the recently-signed peace accord between Lebanon's Amal Movement and Hizballah, Velayati maintained "if all influential parties in Lebanon work for the cause of understanding and solidarity between Lebanese Muslims, we will never witness such clashes."

"We offer our stance on various subjects such as human rights, right of nations and international diplomacy to the outside world especially the Muslims countries."

Questioned as to the expansion of ties with Nicosia in view of Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou's visit to Tehran, Velayati said the Islamic Republic pursues an independent policy concerning its ties with other countries regardless of any third party disputes.

"We will try to solve disputes between Turkey and Greece over the Cyprus issue."

Discusses Afghan Question

LD0602140489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Velayati participated in a news conference this morning and answered questions by domestic and foreign correspondents. [passage omitted]

According to a Central News Unit report, regarding the propogation of the revolution, Velayati said: We will propogate the Islamic tenets through our rich culture.

On the issue of Afghanistan and that country's future, the foreign minister said: Yesterday a pact was signed in Tehran between the seven- and the eight-party coalitions. The leaders of the seven-party coalition conferred with Sibghatullah Mojadeddi on the future of Afghanistan, and on the basis of the pact, they are to report back to Pakistan to further consolidate the mujahidin's unanimity of views. He said: We respect the fate of the Afghan nation and its events, but will not interfere in that country's domestic issues.

The visit to Tehran by Vorontsov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry's first secretary and ambassador to Afghanistan, which took place on the eve of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, is of significant value.

On the satisfactory talks held between Iran and France on Afghanistan and Lebanon, and also the expansion of ties between the two countries, the foreign minister hoped for the release of the hostages in Lebanon in the near future. [passage omitted]

On relations with Egypt, Velayati said: We will not resume relations with Egypt until she withdraws from the Camp David accords. He added: The expansion of ties with Arabia depends on the efforts made by the two sides.

Khamene'i Interviewed on U.S. Ties, Presidency

LD0602192989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1640 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Interview with President Ali Khamene'i with unidentified correspondents on 5 February in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Question] Mr President, you kindly briefed us on the revolution's gains in the 10 past years. There is a cease-fire now, but of course peace has not yet materialized. People should strive to overcome the problems created by the war. Do you not think that the most important and the most sensitive problem is how to stabilize the situation? This is the most difficult social problem for Iran and I have recently heard that a council is being created to introduce some changes in the Constitution. Could you possibly clarify this issue too?

[Khamene'i] For a country like Iran, which is left with the ruins of the war, naturally the most important issue is to reconstruct all these ruins. In addition to the problems left by the war, we have inherited countless problems from the former regime. The era after the revolution should have been used to remove these problems, but obviously the outbreak of the war prevented proper implementation of this task. Our most important tasks therefore are the country's reconstruction, meeting the objectives of the revolution, social welfare, reconstructing the infrastructure, national growth and development and cultural issues.

We will strive to perform our tasks. About the Constitution, a council such as the one you mention does not exist. Of course, there are views expressed on articles of the Constitution and some people believe these articles should be changed. However, there are others who believe that the existing Constitution is perfect. At any rate if one day the changes were to be introduced, naturally the people's vote and their opinion will be taken into consideration. The issue will be put to a referendum, the same as the original constitution which was approved by the people.

[Question] You have answered my question about the Constitution. I would like to add this request—as a question—that, if possible, you would comment on the debate about a new form of presidency, in which the president is stronger, and the prime minister is weaker.

[Khamene'i] In any case one of the issues being discussed—and some believe that changes are needed—is the topic about the head of the executive power. The style at present is not a complete style, according to the critics. This style, accordingly, can be changed in various ways. One way is the one that you mentioned. Of course there are other ways.

[Question] Recently Bush has said that Iran has had no role in hostage taking. Some observers have interpreted Bush's remark as a green light for resuming Iran-U.S. ties. What is your opinion in this connection?

[Khamene'i] The fact that they announce that Iran has had no role in taking hostages is in line with what officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have said for a long time now. This is in fact a correct statement. But the mere showing of a green light by U.S. officials is not sufficient. They must further prove their good intentions. There are doubtless many ways to do that.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Bush has also said that good intentions come with good intentions. In Your Excellency's opinion, what kind of move or initiative will Iran consider to be a display of good intentions.

[Khamene'i] A large quantity of property belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently in the United States. It has been kept there for many years in that country's warehouses. This property has all been paid for. The hostile attitude of the United States, that is the U.S. regime, vis-a-vis Iran ensured that this property was not delivered, using hollow excuses. In addition, much of this property, further, is nonmilitary in nature. This property must be delivered. U.S. hostile and conspiratorial moves against Iran must stop. These are some of the things that the United States can do to display its good intentions. [passage omitted]

Fomenting 'Trend of Confidence' With U.S. Urged

LD0602134389 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—A day after Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i ruled out restoring of Tehran-Washington ties unless the U.S. abandons its hostile policies against Iran, a Tehran daily saw "nothing wrong if the two countries got together and tried to iron out the core of the existing problems."

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES Monday in an opinion column viewed that "such a move on the part of Iran could not go, by all standards against the cherished principles of the Islamic revolution."

Khamene'i in a press conference Sunday here said the U.S. could show its good intentions towards the Islamic government by releasing Iran's frozen assests in America and by giving up its mischevious and hostile stance against Tehran.

Pointing to press reports of an important release of two American hostages in Lebanon through Iran's help, TEHRAN TIMES said the move "to some degree at least, is likely to patch up Iran-American ties."

The new U.S. President reportedly said Iran was not behind the hostage-taking in Lebanon. Iranian President Khamene'i said this "green signal is not enough alone. The U.S. should show its good intentions in practice."

TEHRAN TIMES said Iran and the U.S. have to develop a mechanism to cement the "trend of confidence that seems to be in the offing in the ruptured relations for the months ahead."

"If the Americans are thinking in terms of establishing a healthy relationship, then they have to streamline the future goodwill sign through more proper channels," the daily, one of the two English-language newspapers of Iran said.

Washington severed relations with Tehran after Muslim revolutionary students occupied the U.S. Embassy or the so-called spy den in Tehran, in 1979.

"Do we lack in confidence that we cannot preserve our hard-gained independence and manage to talk to the Americans without being dominated by them?" the daily questioned.

It appears, TEHRAN TIMES said, that the U.S. was giving up its much "ballyhoos and hostage taking in Lebanon. It called on Iran to take "practical and realistic steps in our diplomacy."

Mohtashemi Opposes Relations With France, U.S.

LD0602172489 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi today came down harshly upon renewal of ties with Paris.

"For what reason do we want relations with France which not only was an accomplice in Saddam's (Husayn) war crimes but also did not spare any effort to eliminate the Islamic Republic?" questioned Mohtashemi.

"Instead of clasping the hands of such powers we should join hands with our people to get rid of foeigners and strangers by making more public investments," he told a group of model villagers.

Mohtashemi was referring to French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' 2 day stay in Tehran which ended today, during which both the sides expressed desire to resume normal ties, putting behind Paris' support for Iranian antirevolutionaries and its pouring of sophisticated arms into Ba'thist Iraq.

The interior minister posed the same question as to relations with the U.S. and stressed "considering our innovative and constructive forces at home and even abroad, we will never need strangers."

In a press conferrnce yesterday, President Khamene'i had also ruled out ties with Washington unless the U.S. is ready to forego its hostile policy towards the Islamic Republic.

Elsewhere, Mohtashemi said that development of rural areas and removal of problems facing villagers tops the government's plans in the second decade of the Islamic revolution.

Majlis Official on Ties With U.S., Saudi Arabia

LD0702111389 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Head of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali has described as "useful" Irano-Saudi talks to normalize relations.

He also expressed hope in an interview with IRNA today that Iran could send 150,000 Hajj pilgrims to Mecca this year.

Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said last week that indirect talks were underway between Tehran and Riyadh to restore diplomatic ties. Relations between the two countries were cut in April last year following massacre of hundreds of Iranian pilgrims by Saudi police in Hajj ceremonies in July 1987.

Khalkhali also lauded the "effective role" played by the Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in solving the Tehran-Riyadh row and expressed hopes "the talks will bear fruit and a joint statement be issued between the two countries."

The Majlis deputy denied rumors of any negotiations or indirect contacts with the U.S. and said "secret contacts are neither in our interest nor could we do anything that way."

He ruled out any change in the present state of relations between Tehran and Washington unless the new American President released Iran's frozen assets and military equipments paid for under the former shah. "If they take the initiative in re-establishing ties we will hold open talks with them."

He repeated an earlier statement by Iranian leaders that Iran was for friendly relations with all countries except Israel and the South African racist regime. He said by expanding relations with other countries "we can take effective steps in economic, political and cultural areas."

Syrian Minister Tarabulsi Holds Consultations

Khatami Stresses Unity

LD0402174489 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami placed stress on the need for further unity between Iran and Syria as well as other regional countries "at the crucial juncture".

The Hojjat ol-Eslam made the remark today in a meeting with visiting Syrian Minister of Islamic Endowments 'Abd al-Majid Tarabulsi who arrived here yesterday.

The Syrian minister is in Iran to participate in the ten-day dawn (February 1-11) ceremonies and said the objective of his visit is "strengthening of friendship between the two countries."

Tarabulsi said Syria is well aware that the Islamic revolution calls for liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque and return of all Palestinians to their homeland. Iran stands beside the Arabs in the struggle against the Zionist regime, he noted.

The joint imperialist-Zionist conspiring is to try to contain the Islamic revolution and prevent it from living up to its ideals."

Khamene'i Praises Ties

NC0702065189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received the Syrian minister of religious trusts and hajj [title as heard], who has come to Iran to participate in the festivals marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, yesterday.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting the Syrian minister of religious trusts and hajj presented a message of congratulations from Syrian President Mr Hafiz al-Asad on the first decade of the Islamic revolution, and the minister pointed to the strengthening and deepening of ties between the two Muslim and fraternal nations of Iran and Syria.

Mr Khamene'i expressed thanks for Mr Hafiz al-Asad's sincere message and said: We consider Syria a brother nation, and as time goes on, the (?ties) between Iran and Syria grow stronger.

The president referred to the significance of the Palestinian problem and of (?occupied Jerusalem), and said: Holy Jerusalem is a strategic issue for us, and Syria is the only Arab country that has taken this issue seriously.

Mr Khamene'i stressed the revolutionary [word indistinct] of our people throughout the 10 years since the victory of the Islamic revolution. Pointing to the defeated efforts by the enemies of Islam, he said: The Iranian nation does not fear the big powers in the true sense of the word, and it has shown (?this) in all arenas. Therefore, it is [word indistinct] that the people of Iran mark the anniversary of these 10 [word indistinct] (?years) of religious jihad.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i stressed the importance of cooperation between Iran and Syria in all fields.

French Foreign Minister Dumas Ends 2-Day Visit

Terms Talks 'Very Fruitful'

LD0602122389 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his entourage left for Kuwait Monday, [6 February] winding up a two day official visit to Tehran.

Before his departure Dumas terming his talks with Iran's political and economic officials as "very fruitful", said the negotiations had covered all aspects of Tehran-Paris ties and ways to remove remaining disputes between the two countries.

In the economic field, Dumas said, the two countries signed contracts regarding auto industries, oil and manufacture of metro and railways equipment.

He hoped his visit would further promote mutual relations in the future.

During his stay here, Dumas was received by President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. He also held two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Velayam

Velayati told a news conference today that Iran and France have decided to "forget the past and instead think of expanding mutual ties in the future."

He added in addition to bilateral ties, the two sides had also discussed the issues of Lebanon and Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq peace talks and Tehran's ties with the European Economic Community.

Velayati said the Paris government's support for Iranian anti-revolutionaries was another topic discussed by him and Dumas. He hoped the issue would somehow be solved in the future.

On the likelihood of the release of Anis Naccache who is in French jail for attempting to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar, Velayati said during the previous talks between Tehran and Paris, Iran had promised to try to secure the release of French hostages in Lebanon and in return France had made some promises for pardoning him.

Human Rights Issue Discussed

LD0602144189 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Au revoir Tehran. Roland Dumas is leaving the Iran of the ayatollahs. Whether he has accomplished his mission is not really clear in view of the recent past. French-Iranian normalization has been launched on new lines, and it is hoped that it will not lead to an impasse. Ralph Pinto in Tehran reports:

[Pinto] In his last conversation with the Iranian foreign minister, Roland Dumas spoke about human rights, primarily about the hundreds—perhaps thousands—of executions carried out first and foremost against the people's mojahedin. The French minister also wanted to discuss the mystery surrounding Annie Eberst, the French aid worker who was injured and disappeared during an operation launched by the mojahedin in July 1988. Where is she, is she dead? We do not know exactly. Do the Iranians, on their part, speak about human rights in their own way, that is from the angle of Anis Naccache, the man who, inspired by the Islamic revolution, wanted to kill the shah's former prime minister in 1980.

At any rate, the French-Iranian machinery has been put into motion, one has the distinct impression of this from conversations with the 10 or so French industrialists who have followed Roland Dumas to the country of Khomeyni.

Mohtashemi Criticizes Visit

LD0602201989 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas termed his stay in the Islamic Republic as "quite positive" and believed that the aims of his 2-day visit were achieved.

At a press conference before leaving for Kuwait Monday, Dumas said he had held "very constructive" political talks with Iran's officials as regards international and regional issues.

"Tehran-Paris ties was the most important issue discussed during my stay here, added the French foreign minister whose country in addition to harbouring Iranian anti-revolutionaries was the principal backer for the Iraqi regime during eight years of aggression upon Islamic Iran. [quote marks as received]

Dumas said that talks held in Tehran would be followed by meetings at ministerial level between the two countries, and said he has invited ministers of PTT [Post, Telegraph, and Telephone] Mohammad Gharazi and Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi to visit France.

"Our discussions also centred on plans for joint manufacture of automobiles, oil purchase, railway construction and other fields and we reached certain understandings," said an elated Dumas who led a 30-man high-powered delegation.

Asked whether his visit could be considered as the final step towards normalization of Iran-France ties, Dumas replied in the affirmative, and said "the French delegation's visit to Iran signals an end to the "temporary" rift in mutual relations, and aims at new prospects for promotion of bilateral ties and full normalization."

However, Dumas' visit was sharply critized by some quarters including Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami, who questioned wisdom of ties with France.

'Ali Aklbar Velayati who saw off his French counterpart, said Iran and France still have a long way towards strengthening of mutual ties. "However, much was done during these two days," he added.

In response to a question on Western allegations of human rights abuses in Iran, he dismissed it as "attempts to exert political pressure on the Islamic Republic."

Human rights in Iran is based on Islam's Divine Laws, to which some Western states may be averse, Velayati continued adding "we are committed to the Islamic values and we are ready to exchange views in this regard and support this idea in a logical way."

He rejected monafeqin (MKO) claims of execution of some jailed terrorists as "baseless" and added that most of these saboteurs were killed in the war scenes. "We can present numerous documents which prove this group (MKO) killed a lot of innocent people," he noted.

On the fate of a supposed French nurse in Iran, Velayati answered that according to all official record neither a visa was issued nor such a person entered the country. "These are allegations cooked up by the French media, and if such a woman was involved with the hypocrites she was probably killed at the fronts fighting Iranian soldiers."

"I amicably complain to Mr. Dumas for the support given by France to terrorist groups, because these terrorists themselves have admitted that they have planted bombs and killed innocent people," said the Iranian minister.

Questioned whether the release from Paris jail to Anis Naccache, a Lebanese Muslim accused of assassination attempt on Shahpur Bakhtiar would help promotion of Tehran-Paris relations, Velayati said "his release can play an important role in this regard."

Musavi Receives Pakistani Shi'ite Leader

LD0502212589 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Leader of Shi'ite Muslims in Pakistan Allama Seyyed Sajed Ali Naqavi today briefed Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on the cultural activities of the community in Pakistan.

"We are proud of the Islamic Revolution and to have such a powerful neighbour as Islamic Iran" said Naqavi and called for expansion of cultural ties between the two Muslim states.

Musavi, welcoming promotion of mutual ties in cultural and other fields, expressed hope Iran and Pakistan as two Muslim neighbours could serve as a model for the region.

Allama Naqavi who suceeded martyr Allama Seyyed Arif Husseini as the Shi'ite leader in Pakistan last December, is in Iran to attend the ten-day-dawn celebrations marking the first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD0502045989 Tehran IRNA in English 0456 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iakovou arrived here mid-night Saturday heading a high-ranking delegation on a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Velayati.

Iakovou is scheduled to hold talks with high-ranking Iranian officials on issues of mutual interest.

Meets With Velayati

NC0602163589 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1500 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Telephone report by Alex Efthivoulou from Tehran on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou continued his consultations here in Tehran today with a series of meetings with various ministers. In only 2 days, Iakovou has had a long meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i and six other separate discussions at the ministerial level. Prior to his departure for Cyprus tomorrow morning, he will have a final meeting at 0730 with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

These consultations are mainly aimed at strengthening ties between the two countries, which established diplomatic relations only 2 months ago. The fact that Iakovou has been received in such a short period of time by the president, the prime minister, and several times by the foreign minister—and has met with the ministers of commerce, planning, finance, and oil—underlines the importance which both governments attach to the broadening of relations. It is certain that there has been a full briefing and understanding by both sides, with regard to developments pertaining to the Cyprus issue and Iran-Iraq affairs.

Iakovou gave his various interlocutors a detailed account of recent developments regarding the Cyprus issue, following the submission of the Greek Cypriot proposals to the Turkish side, and Turkish reaction to these proposals. This took up a substantial part of his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. For his part, Velayati briefed the Cypriot foreign minister on Iran-Iraq affairs and on the stalemate in the peace efforts.

Iakovou is accompanied by Mikhalakis Erotokritou, director general of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and Panayiotis Khatzipavlou, representative of the Planning Bureau. The presence of these two advisers in Tehran stresses the importance which Cyprus attaches to the effort to establish trade relations with Iran and the possibility of a Cypriot contribution to postwar reconstruction following the termination of the 8-year war with Iraq.

The positive outcome of the talks with various ministers at technical level is that the foundations for future efforts have been laid, and it has been agreed that exchanges should follow so that technical matters may be discussed. Consideration is being given to a visit to Iran by the

minister of commerce and industry, together with representatives of Cypriot merchants and industrialists, so that they may discuss in detail what Cyprus can offer to Iran, and at the same time see, of course, what Iran can buy from Cyprus.

Holds Talks With Khamene'i

LD0602055589 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—The visiting Cypriot Foreign Minister Yeoryios Iakovou in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Sunday night conveyed warm greetings of President Yeoryios Vasiliou of Cyprus and called for consolidation of Tehran-Nicosia links.

The president thanking his Cypriot counterpart welcomed expansion of bilateral ties stating that ample opportunities existed for promotion of bilateral relations and said that the trip could help serve this end.

Iakovou who arrived here Sunday at the head of a delegation also briefed the president on latest developments in solving problems of Turkish and Greek community of Cyprus. The meeting was attended by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and diplomats of the two countries.

Turning to the issue of two communities in Cyprus President Khamene'i said that the Iranian people wished that people of Cyprus regardless of being Turk or Greek lead a peaceful life and live in their homeland far from any tension.

The Non-Aligned Movement and its forthcoming September summit in Belgrade was discussed in the meeting.

More on bilateral cooperation Iakovou expressed interest of his country in expansion of political, economic, cultural, industrial and scientific fields.

Meanwhile Iakovou met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday morning and discussed bilateral relations, major regional and international developments and issues related to Non-Aligned Movement.

Lauding the revitalization of Tehran-Nicosia relations Iakovou said that it was fortunate that good potentials existed for economic, scientific, trade and industrial cooperation.

He also briefed Velayati on latest developments in Cyprus and measures taken by the United Nations secretary general's representative.

Velayati outlined Iran's foreign policy and its efforts to establish closer links with non-aligned and Third World countries. He called for greater Tehran-Nicosia cooperation on issues of mutual interest and international matters.

Cypriot and Turkish officials in their talks with Iranian officials have called on Iran to help solve issue of Turkish and Cypriot communities in Cyprus.

Cyprus established relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran last September and its Ambassador to Damascus Nicolaos Makris was appointed as the accredited ambassador to Tehran.

Mohtashemi Ends Turkey Visit, Returns to Tehran

LD0402054789 Tehran IRNA in English 0541 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi returned home Friday night at the end of a five-day visit to Ankara where he signed two protocols on joint security cooperation and anti-drug campaign.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi who headed a political delegation to Ankara signed the protocols after lengthy talks with his Turkish counterpart Mustafa Kalemli on joint campaign against drug smuggling along the 350 km Iran-Turkey border.

According to the protocol the two countries are to utilize their facilities to encounter narcotic smuggling and enforce severe punishments on drug traffikers. They also agreed to exchange information in this respect.

Iran and Turkey agreed to set up a joint security council to prevent any suspicious activities which might put stability of the two Muslim neighboring countries at jeopardy. The council is to convene annually in Tehran and Ankara on an alternate basis.

While in Ankara Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi also met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz and discussed bilateral relations and consular affairs.

Velayati, Musavi Brief Cabinet on Foreign Visits

LD0402121489 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb 4, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his talks with Pakistani President Gholam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Velayati, who concluded his two-day visit to Islamabad Friday, said his talks in Pakistan focused on ways of expanding mutual ties and coordinating Tehran-Islamabad efforts to find a solution to the Afghan issue.

The cabinet also heard Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami giving a report on agreements reached by Iran and Turkey to fight terrorism and drug trafficking, during his four-day visit to Turkey which ended Friday.

Also present at the cabinet session were representatives of 10 model rural Islamic councils who presented a report on their activities and problems facing the councils.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a brief speech lauded Iranian villagers for their valuable services to the country, saying "our success in resisting U.S. economic sanctions is solely due to Iranian farmers' productive activities."

Velayati Leaves for Meetings in Madrid, New York

LD0702060689 Tehran IRNA in English 0559 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Madrid at the invitation of his Spanish counterpart Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez on a two-day visit Tuesday morning.

Bilateral ties and Iran's relations with the Common Market will be discussed with Spanish officials, Velayati told reporters before leaving Tehran.

He added that the trip will be a useful step towards expansion of Tehran-Madrid relations.

Velayati is to leave Madrid for New York on Thursday for talks with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran War.

Asked to comment on his trip to New York, Velayati said it is part of efforts of de Cuellar for implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598.

On extending the mandate of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Groups (UNIIMOG), he said it was a normal routine done every six months with the permission of the Security Council.

More on New York talks he said that the Islamic republic of Iran has proven its readiness to cooperate with the U.N. secretary general on execution of the resolution.

On likelihood of talks with Iraqi officials in New York, he said that it depended on progress made on implementation of the Resolution 598.

Meanwhile addressing the foreign diplomatic corps here Monday Velayati reiterated that the only way to break deadlock of the peace talks is the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to internationally recognized borders.

The foreign diplomats were attending a ceremony held here Monday on the occasion of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Velayati talked about the achievements of the post-revolution decade.

Paper Calls for Execution of UK 'Spy' Cooper

PM0602180989 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 1 Feb 89 p 8

[Editorial: "One Point London Must Not Forget"]

[Text] The publishing of an article by 52-year-old Roger Cooper, who is in a Tehran prison charged with spying, once again shows that his description as a trader was only a cover for his espionage activities in Iran. By writing this article, Roger Cooper has proven that he is a political person, aware of intelligence secrets.

Although he has been in prison for 3 years, he has participated in two television interviews. On 1 September 1987, he described his methods of espionage and British interference in Iranian affairs. Once again, in January 1987, he clearly confessed: I must say that I had contacts with the British intelligence service and I cooperated with it in the gathering of information, analysis, and explanation of various issues.

Despite all this, British expectations for the release of this experienced spy is an old story and one of political dominance in which no one is interested. Our country's foreign policy during the past 10 years has proven that it will not accept domination.

Worldwide, the sentence for spying is death, except for countries like Britain where the training of spies forms a major portion of foreign policy. This allows them to capture spies from other countries so that they can be exchanged for their own spies captured in other countries. Bacause Iran has never trained spies and has none in other countries, Britain is now contemplating political and propaganda pressure to gain Cooper's freedom. This is why the British are making all this noise. They drag the issue through the press, saying Cooper has been in jail without a trial and simply on charges of espionage.

Don't British politicians know that the sentence for spying is death? An experienced intelligence figure like Roger Cooper who has admitted to having possessed intelligence and to espionage, if put on trial, no doubt deserves nothing less than the death sentence. The judicial authorities must clear up all points of confusion, arrange a trial for Mr Cooper, and issue a sentence as soon as possible. The sentence for spying in accordance with the Constitution is death. Roger Cooper was arrested on similar charges in Hungary 30 years ago.

Now, the Cooper article itself: Although it is obvious from its contents what sort of profession he is in, he follows another aim.

Events during the past few months indicate that in an effort to establish ties with Iran, Britian is using the weapon of propaganda to wipe away its past history. Before the talks between Iranian and British officials, former British Ambassador Anthony Parsons said in an interview in London that he hoped the Iranian people

would forget the British past. This is mentioned directly in Roger Cooper's article. On the other hand, it may be that the article was written with a special British politician direction in mind and the necessary lead had been given Cooper before hand.

David Reddaway, a British diplomat, visited Iran last summer and met with Cooper in prison. Gordon Pirie, British charge d'affaires in Tehran, also met with him last December. This is why the contents of his biased article were to remove the unpleasant past of the British in Iran. He wrote at the beginning of his article: This is not a good opportunity to examine completely British foreign policy versus Iran in the past 200 years, or to go into any detail. But as a review of the background and the history of these relations is unavoidable, for the present we will designate a special point in time, which should be 19 August 1953.

In this way, Cooper blanked out 200 years of British interference in Iranian domestic and foreign affairs. He does not say how London played with the dignity and sovereignty of the Iranian people in the 1907 and 1919 agreements which took the country to the edge of separatism and destruction.

The people of Iran have recorded and will never forget the past disgraceful British interference relations with foreign countries. They will fight against any trick or foreign domination. This is one point that London must not forget.

Velayati Addresses Envoys at Anniversary Ceremony
LD0702102589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] The only way to resolve the deadlock in the talks on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 is through the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi forces to internationally recognized borders.

According to IRNA, during a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the dawn of the Islamic Revolution, attended by foreign ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and diplomats, Foreign Minister Velayati stated the above. He described the issues and directions of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI). He also enumerated the IRI's political gains during the 10 years of the Islamic rule in Iran and pointed out that the war was imposed on Iran at the behest of the superpowers and at a time when the country was challenging the inevitable difficulties in the wake of a popular, anti-imperialist revolution.

IRNA noted that after the ceremony, the guests inspected the "A Glance at the World" pavilion and the second exhibition of documents of the Foreign Ministry at its diplomatic and international studies office.

More Convicts Released on Revolution Anniversary
LD0602175589 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—A total of 1,062 convicts were released from jails in Khorramabad (Lorestan) Birjand and Qayen (Khorasan) following Imam Khomeyni's pardon decree, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Two hundred were set free during the past few days and the rest will be released by February 11, the day the revolution finally triumphed in Iran.

In related news, 300 convicts were pardoned in the Central Province, 350 in Hamadan, and 197 in Orumiyeh and 200 in Bakhtaran while sentences of scores of others were reduced.

Also in Lorestan and Khorasan Provinces, those doing 15 years were commuted to ten years imprisonment.

Montazeri Interview Marks Revolution Anniversary
LD0602171889 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 6, IRNA—Iran's designated future leader said the lack of professionalism, and extremism and factionalism were partly to blame for the failure of the Islamic revolution in implementing some of its aims but disappointment was not the answer.

"If we have not been able to carry out all the slogans and objectives of the revolution, we should not be disappointed," said Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

"Instead of losing hope and disillusionment one should discover the real reasons for the lack of success and to think what should be done."

The ayatollah was speaking in his first interview since the war published in a journal marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution and reprinted in the daily ABRAR Monday.

"Of course the brave and revolutionary young generation are justified in seeing that there is a big gap between what they have gained and what they were promised.

"But one must think and confront the problems and if one sees impurity, dishonesty or incompetence he should not be disappointed."

Which factors including deficiencies in religious thinking regarding state administration, insufficient competence of the officials, the lack of real political power in the hands of the people, or international pressure had had the most impact?

Internal factors such as "unprofessionalism, extremism, selfishness, monopolism, group inclinations, injustices and ignoring the people and the genuine values of the revolution has until now caused the most damage for the revolution," he said.

"If these are not redressed before it gets late they can no longer be compensated."

The five factors mentioned each played a role of their own and they were individually significant but regarding the deficiencies of religious thinking "one must explain that Shi'a theology, until now, was not involved in matters of the state."

"It has, naturally, some bottlenecks and deficiencies which must be removed with new thinking..."

International pressure and the war brought major losses "but if we return to the same Islamic Unity before the (revolution's) victory and we do not monopolize the revolution in the hands of one group...we will no doubt overcome all internal and external difficulties."

Ayatollah Montazeri stressed that it was a clear from the way the prophet (peace be upon him) and Imam 'Ali (blessings upon him) ruled in their time that "we must not rule at any cost."

He said the idea that the complexities of modern times and the various plots of the enemies were incomparable with early Islam was "a deviation and a wrong thought."

"Moral and human values which have been coded in the religions especially Islam are not something that can be changed.

"Justice, equality, protection of rights, serving mankind, keeping commitments, honesty, generosity, sacrifice, amnesty, forgiveness, and things like these are always proper and desired by people."

"Taking power was to realize these values and aims and in other words, the state is the means not the aim. The aim is the values."

Montazeri Urges People To Confront Oppression

LD0402191189 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Qom, Feb 4, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri today called on ulema, orators and writers in the Muslim world to express their views to their peoples frankly and rationally so that they could be more familiarized with their Islamic duties.

"If a Muslim alim should be afraid of ruling powers this means distorting the lofty Islamic values. We should express our views without any fear and not remain silent on the oppression of tyrants," cautioned the revered ayatollah.

The future leader of the Islamic revolution made the remarks in a meeting with foreign guests of the Islamic Republic, who are in Iran to participate in the ten-day dawn celebrations (February 1-11) marking the decade of the Islamic revolutions's victory.

Ayatollah Montazeri also warned that any negligence on the part of ulema and writers towards their duties would serve to sow discord among one billion Muslims around the world.

"All problems plaguing Muslim communities stem from the silence of ulema vis-a-vis the oppression of their sold-out rulers," he said.

Those who introduce themselves as Islamic missionaries but at the same time try to cover up the brutalities and atrocities committed by tyrant rulers are responsible for the plight of Muslims since the advent of Islam, the ayatollah noted.

The reverend ayatollah once again urged Islamic missionaries around the globe not to be scared of their ruling regimes or big powers.

Heads of Muslim states are purchasing American and Soviet made weapons merely to suppress their peoples and not for use against the Zionist regime, Ayatollah Montazeri concluded.

Foreign journalists and cameramen, present at the meeting, filed reports and made films of the ayatollah's speech.

Pakistan

Shevardnadze Departs After 2 Days of Talks

Statement Issued on Visit

BK0602160689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze has ended his 2-day official visit to Pakistan. During this visit, both Pakistan and the Soviet Union expressed a fresh determination toward efforts for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, and for an end to the long-standing conflict there.

In a joint statement issued in Islamabad today, both sides reiterated their support for a sovereign, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan which will have good relations with its neighbors. In the statement, both sides reiterated their determination to encourage the setting up of a broad-based government in Afghanistan with the efforts of the Afghan people themselves, without any foreign interference. Both sides demanded the unconditional implementation of the unanimously adopted UN resolution on Afghanistan. The foreign ministers of the two countries

opposed the use of military power for normalizing the situation in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their determination to fully adhere to the Geneva accords.

Pakistan welcomed the Soviet Union's steps to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan and its assurances to withdraw all its forces by the 15th of this month. Both foreign ministers stressed the need to create an atmosphere conducive for the safe return of the Afghan refugees, a majority of whom are in Pakistan, and expressed satisfaction at UN efforts to supply food and other essential articles to the people of Afghanistan.

On bilateral relations, they expressed their willingness to expedite work on establishing a joint ministerial commission to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields. Talks were held on cooperation in steel, machine tools, the production of electricity, and mining projects in Pakistan. There will be formal consultations between the foreign ministers of the two countries. They will meet in Islamabad and Moscow in turn.

Holds News Conference

BK0602161189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Islamabad prior to his departure, [Soviet Foreign Minister] Shevardnadze said that considerable identity of views between the two countries were noted during his talks with the Pakistani leaders on the important aspects of a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue, and now there is much more understanding between them. However, he added, there are still some differences, but he believes that Pakistan wants a political settlement.

The Soviet foreign minister said that there are no Soviet forces in Kabul now and no Soviet troops will remain in any part of Afghanistan within a week. He stressed the urgent need for negotiations to restore peace in Afghanistan and the talks he held with Pakistani leaders in Islamabad centered mostly on the modalities of such negotiations.

After these talks the Soviet foreign minister was confident that negotiations are possible. He believes the PDPA and the present Kabul regime should be given representation in the proposed consultative council as no efforts will succeed without it. He said that in this context, he is also against excluding [former] King Zahir Shah or any other similar Afghan figures residing abroad who enjoy the support of the Afghan people.

Shevardnadze also presented an alternative proposal for convening an international conference to seek a solution to the issue under the auspices of the United Nations. The proposal for an international conference was made by Soviet leader Gorbachev at the UN General Assembly previously. As an interim proposal, all the Afghan groups' representatives may meet in the presence of the UN representative. He said that the UN secretary general may be requested to pay a role personally in this regard.

The Soviet foreign minister said that his country does not want to send its troops back to Afghanistan. He mentioned, however, that his country's responsibility under an accord with Afghanistan in the event of an emergency or increased tension, or as he put it, in case of intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. However, this is something which we do not like to think about, the Soviet foreign minister added.

Shevardnadze said that the situation in Kabul is normal following the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan.

On clearing mines in Afghanistan, he said he exchanged views with Prince Sadruddin [UN coordinator for humanitarian assistance to Afghans] yesterday on how the work could be carried out under UN supervision.

In reply to a question, he said 15,000 Soviet soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan.

On the Soviet POW's held by the mujahidin, the Soviet foreign minister said that Pakistan has pledged to assist in this regard. He refuted that Afghan political prisoners are being transferred to the USSR.

On bilateral relations, Shevardnadze offered to develop trade and economic ties on a new level and said there are good prospects for developing these ties. He said that his country will assist Pakistan in the expansion of Pakistan Steel [plant] in Karachi. We are considering providing assistance in several development projects, he said. Detailed talks in this regard will be held during Minister of State for Production Raja Shahid Zafar's visit to Moscow this year. He said there are bright prospects for cooperation in scientific research and the training of personnel as well.

Yaqub Khan Seeks Broad-Based Afghan Government

BK0302154289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan hopes that a broad-based government will be formed in Afghanistan after completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal from that country on the 15th of this month. Talking informally to newsmen in Karachi this afternoon, he said that the new Afghan government will represent the genuine aspirations of the people. Pakistan would like to establish good-neighborly relations with the new government and will help the brotherly Afghan people in reconstructing their country after the war of independence.

Commentary Praises PRC Policy Toward USSR

BK0502084089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 4 Feb 89

[News commentary by Syed Nazir Bukhariy]

[Text] The Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze, arrives in Islamabad tonight after having made a successful tour of People's Republic China, accompanying the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, will be visiting in May this year. [sentence as heard] In Pakistan, the Soviet foreign minister will be discussing mainly the Afghanistan issue—an issue which complicated the Sino-Soviet relations, already under strain, when the Soviet forces entered Afghanistan 9 years ago.

Now today, when the Soviet foreign minister is on his way to Islamabad, the Soviet forces have already left Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, which was the first to come under Soviet occupation. This intervention paved the way to a worldwide criticism against the Soviet interference in a sovereign and nonaligned country.

Then, along with Pakistan, the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia, it was also the People's Republic of China standing in the forefront of countries raising their strong voice against the Soviet action. China itself is a communist country and could keep silent on this intervention by a communist neighbor, yet it did not do so and fully backed the international protest against this open breach of the UN Charter, which so clearly pleads the noninterference in other countries' affairs. Since then, China made it a condition that for any normalization of relations it would be necessary that the Soviet Union completely withdraws its forces from Afghanistan.

Hence, relations between the two countries improved rapidly in the past year, following Soviet announcement that it was withdrawing from Afghanistan, reducing its troops strength in Asia, and would help in persuading Vietnam to withdraw from Kampuchea in order to end conflict there as well. These international developments contributed in making the visit of the Soviet foreign minister to China a success. It is a success in the sense that the two countries have at long last agreed on a date when the Soviet president would visit China after a lapse of almost 30 years.

It was in 1959 when the Soviet leader, Mr Khrushchev, met the late Mr Mao Zedong in Beijing. The same year, the relations between China and the Soviet Union started deteriorating so rapidly that all Soviet technical and military aid to China had to be cut. Later on, a state of cold war and mutual recriminations started that forced the two countries to look for a fresh friendship. According to observers, this cold war was also a factor in accelerating the process of bringing about and strengthening U.S.-Chinese friendship.

This estrangement and open conflict of these major Asian powers, however, did not contribute to the promotion of a tension-free world. Now there is every possibility that with the visit of the Soviet president to China, the international relations would get a big boost. Asia is likely to benefit more, because if these two Asian giants see eye to eye on regional problems, their solution becomes much more easier. Besides, the Soviet president's visit to China shows the consistency of Chinese leadership in the conduct of international relations.

It is but certain that without this consistency and adherence to principled positions on international issues, problems like Afghanistan and Kampuchea could easily become more complicated. So today, when the world justifiably welcomes the Sino-Soviet rapprochement, it has as well sufficient reasons to cheer China's consistency and this country's love to stand for principles.

Australian Prime Minister Hawke Arrives 6 Feb

BK0602133289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] A warm welcome was accorded to the Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, when he arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 4-day official visit to Pakistan. The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, welcomed the Australian prime minister and Mrs Bob Hawke at the airport. The airport ceremony included a 19-gun salute and guard of honor.

This evening, the Australian prime minister will call on Ms Benazir Bhutto, who is hosting a banquet in his honor later. Formal talks between the two prime ministers will be held tomorrow.

Holds Talks With Bhutto

BK0702030889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Formal talks between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke are being held in Rawalpindi today. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent says bilateral, regional, and international issues will be discussed during the talks. Both countries are cooperating with each other at various forums on most international issues.

The prime minister hosted a banquet in honor of Mr Bob Hawke last night. Speaking on the occasion, Ms Benazir Bhutto said we are giving full attention to the reconstruction of our society after 11 years of military rule in Pakistan. She underlined the need for mutually beneficial cooperation between Pakistan and Australia as well as starting joint ventures in the fields of economy, trade, and agriculture.

Ms Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan is considering the question of rejoining the Commonwealth and has been encouraged by the response of the Commonwealth member countries.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said Pakistan wants transfer of power to a broad-based government in Kabul to enable Afghan refugees to return to their homes.

The Australian prime minister in his speech welcomed the restoration of democratic institutions and the release of political prisoners in Pakistan. He commended the steps taken by the prime minister for reducing tension between Pakistan and India. Mr Bob Hawke said that his country will fully support Pakistan's rejoining the Commonwealth.

The Australian prime minister announced that his country will supply 25,000 tons of wheat to Pakistan to meet its needs. He added: Australia will also help in setting up joint projects.

Bhutto Congratulates Nation on Missile Tests

BK0602164089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has congratulated the nation for entering into the missile age by the successful firing of ground-to-ground missiles. In a message to the nation the prime minister said by launching these missiles the dream of Prime Minister Shaheed [martyr] Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto has come true.

Ishaq Khan on Need for Opposition in Democracy

BK0602163189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said an effective and functional opposition is necessary for strengthening of democracy and the opposition in the country is playing its due role. Talking to newsmen at Shikarpur helipad today, the president said both the government and the opposition are working for the promotion of democracy and for welfare of the nation. However, he pointed out, difference of opinion was the part of democratic process and one should not feel alarmed by it.

The president said assemblies were functioning and there was no constitutional crisis. There was no confrontation between the Punjab and the federal government. [passage omitted]

Punjab Chief Notes Threats Against Democracy

BK0702022989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Nawaz Sharif, Punjab chief minister and leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, said that political workers should work for the supremacy of the law to strengthen democracy in the country and fully meet the expectations of the people who placed their trust in them in the recent by-elections.

Addressing provincial assembly members of the Islamic Democratic Alliance in Lahore yesterday, he said some elements are threatening the Punjab government, which is against democracy. He added that we are against confrontation with any one and will pay attention to solving the problems of the people.

New Baluchistan Chief Minister Sworn in

BK0502155089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti of Baluchistan National Alliance took the oath as chief minister of Baluchistan in Quetta this afternoon. The provincial governor, retired General Mohammad Musa, administered the oath. Earlier, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti was elected leader of the provincial assembly. [passage omitted]

1 Killed in Shooting Incident in Karachi

BK0402154389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 89

[Text] Several gunmen at Malir area of Karachi fired shots today, killing one person and injuring two. The Radio Pakistan correspondent was informed by the police that the unidentified criminals escaped the scene. Tension built up in the area following the incident. However, the situation is reported to be under control and law enforcement agency personnel are patrolling the area.

3 Killed in Quetta Bus Stand Bomb Explosion

BK0502081689 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] A bomb explosion is reported to have occurred at the (?mini) bus stand in Quetta this morning. Hospital sources say three persons have died and another two were injured.

Army Called in Following Violence in Latifabad

BK0602024589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] A press note issued by the Hyderabad District magistrate says that disguised armed men attacked a clinic in Latifabad with automatic rifles yesterday evening. A police team reached the spot from nearby. In the shooting, one person was wounded and later succumbed to his injuries. One attacker was arrested on the spot, and a Kalashnikov and a [word indistinct] were seized. Later, the troublemakers killed a police head constable.

The press note adds that the Army has been called in to assist the civil administration, and patrolling has been intensified in Hyderabad and Latifabad cities. The situation is now fully under control.

2 Killed by Unidentified Gunmen in Karachi

BK0602101489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 6 Feb 89

[Text] Two persons, including a 4-year-old child, were killed when unidentified armed persons opened fire in the Nazimabad area [of Karachi] today. Another person injured from the gunfire was admitted to the hospital.

According to police sources, the armed persons, who were in a car, fled the scene. Law enforcement personnel are now patrolling the area.

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister Hameed Opens PLO Embassy

BK0702111889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1020 GMT 7 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Foreign Affairs A. C . Shahul Hameed declared open the Embassy of the State of Palestine this afternoon amidst a large gathering of well-wishers. The establishment of the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Sri Lanka marks another milestone in Sri Lanka-Palestine relations. Sri Lanka's unwavering support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people culminated with the recognition of the newly proclaimed state.

Sri Lanka's acceptance of the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the accordance of embassy' status to the PLO office since 1982, bear testimony to Sri Lanka's solidarity with the Palestinian people. Sri Lanka welcomes the establishment of the Embassy of the State of Palestine, which would further strengthen the friendly relations between Sri Lanka and the State of Palestine, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

11 Civilians Killed, 2 Injured by LTTE

BK0302162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka 11 civilians have been killed and 3 injured in an attack by suspected LTTE men at a village in the Eastern Amaparai District. Reports say the attackers raided the village and killed the victims with sharp weapons. In the northwestern district of (Karunagalle) one subinspector of police was killed when police raided a hideout of suspected subversives.

Delhi Reports Killing of 3 Parliament Candidates

BK0502042789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Feb 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, three candidates contesting the forthcoming parliamentary elections have been killed by unidentified gunmen. Two of them belong to the major opposition Freedom Party and one to the left-wing United Socialist Alliance. A police spokesman told our Colombo correspondent that two of them were killed on Friday [3 February] while one was killed yesterday. All three were gunned down in their homes.

Armed Gangs Attack in South; 4 Killed, 5 Injured

BK0502115389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1055 GMT 5 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 5 (LANKAPUVATH)—Four persons were killed and five policemen injured in separate attacks by armed gangs in the Southern Province district, yesterday. Police told LANKAPUVATH that a vehicle was attacked by an armed gang of 20 persons at Hakmana, seriously wounding 5 policemen. Three of the wounded were admitted to Walasmulla hospital and two warded at the Matara hospital.

In Beliatta, an armed gang of 10 persons clad in army type uniforms shot dead Jayasekara and his wife. Another unidentified gang shot dead a 20-year-old youth, Nimal, at Beliatta. A report from Bentota states that gunmen shot dead a man after gaining entry forcibly into the victim's residence, yesterday.

600 Prisoners Released on Independence Day 4 Feb

BK0402074789 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0723 GMT 4 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—Some 600 petty criminals were freed from Sri Lankan prisons Saturday to mark the country's 41st anniversary of independence, official sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said the freed convicts were mostly those who had failed to pay their fines and nine condemned men, who had their sentences commuted to life, following a special amnesty by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

They said about 355 prisoners were released from Colombo's main Welikada prison, while others were freed from jails in the provinces.